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கடிதம்

வணக்கம்!

மீண்டும் ஒரு பொதுநலப் பார்வையுடன் உங்கள் கைகளில் வந்துள்ளோம்!

பெற்றோர்கள் பார்வையில் பிள்ளைகள்
பிள்ளைகளின் பார்வையில் பெற்றோர்கள்

இந்த இரண்டுபேர் மனதிலும் எலும் கருத்துக்கள் கவலைகள் பொதுநலக் கண்ணோட்டங்கள்

இந்தக்காலத்திற்கு ஏற்றமாதிரி தன்னை மாற்றி இயற்கையோடு போட்டி போட்டுக் கொண்டு பிள்ளைகளும்

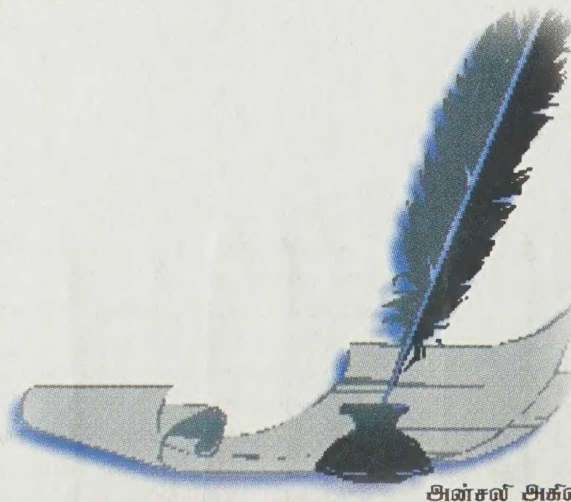
அந்தக்கால நினைப்புடன் அவர்கள் வாழ்ந்த முறையை சொல்லிக் காட்டி அந்த நினைவிலேயே வாழத்துடிக்கும் பெற்றோர்கள்

அந்தக்காலத்தையும் இந்தக்காலத்தையும் - அறிந்து அதன் வளர்ச்சியை உணர்ந்து

பிள்ளைபளுடன் நட்புடனும் நம்பிக்கையுடனும் பழகும் இன்னெரு வகை பெற்றோர்கள்!

தங்களின் பெற்றோர்களின் வசதி அறிந்து வாழ்கைமுறை அறிந்து அவர்களோடு தோழ்சாய்ந்து இன்னொரு வகை பிள்ளைகள்!

உங்கள் பிள்ளைகள் மீது நம்பிக்கை வையுங்கள். அரைவனைத்து அறிவுறை கூறுங்கள் - அவர்கள் அன்புக்கு அடிபணிவார்கள்!



அன்சலி அகில்

eDITORIAL

"Family faces are magic mirrors. Looking at people who belong to us, we see the past, present, and future." As Tamils in Canada we have one thing in common, we have escaped from a war in Sri Lanka in search of a better home for the upbringing of a new generation. It is not only the Tamil community, but all immigrants in Canada struggle to keep their identity and fear that their children will not remember their ancestors. However, parents are very much caught up in enforcing rules that their parents had forced upon them in Sri Lanka that they fail to realize that time has passed. Gone are the times when a child's fear of a parent was the ultimate sign of progress and discipline. Gone are the times in when it was believed that a parent was the 'all-knowing' individual. In this time and age it is expected of parents to build a healthy relationship with their children. Similarly, it is required of children to be patient and understanding of their parents. While a lot of teenagers feel that their parents are inexperienced of the social conditions of this country, parents have more knowledge and wisdom than they are credited for. Fortunately, there are parents who hold a stable friendship with their children and likewise there are children who cherish the Tamil tradition while adjusting to the Canadian society. Therefore both parents and children have to make sacrifices and adjustments in order to understand one another. The first step toward a better understanding is communication. In fact, many families deteriorate due to lack of communication. The advice that our parents give their children is based on experience and knowledge. Parents should be patient because their children may seem to ignore their advice but eventually the children will come to accept it. AS the famous quote goes; "sound really does travel slower than light. The advice parents give to their 18-year-old doesn't reach them until they're about 40."

Inez

குடும்ப வாள்வில் பேற்றோரும் பிள்ளைகளும்

குடும்பம் ஒரு கோயில் அதில் அன்பே தினம் வாழும். குடும்பத்தின் அச்சாணி நம்பிக்கை. குடும்பத்தில் பெற்றோர், பிள்ளைகள் என வாழும் நாம் அவரவர் தம் கடமைகளை சரிவர செய்கின்றோமா? பெற்றோராகிய நாம் பிள்ளைகள் மட்டில் அன்பும், அக்கறையும் உள்ளவர்களா? பிள்ளைகள் மட்டில் முழு அக்கறை கொண்டு அவர்கள் வாழ்வை வளம்பெற செய்ய நம்மை அர்ப்பணிக்கின்றோமா? பிள்ளைகள் தம் பெற்றோர் மட்டில் மதிப்பும் மரியாதையும் கீழ்ப்படிவும் உள்ளவர்களாக வாழ்கின்றார்களா? அவர்கள் இன்ப, துன்ப, இன்னல் உடல் நலத்தில் அக்கறை கொண்டுள்ளார்களா? என்ற இக் கேள்விகளுக்கு கனடா நாட்டில் வாழும் சில பெற்றோர் பதில் எப்படி?

பல சமய மொழிகளின் கூற்றுப்படி ?உன் தந்தை தந்த பயிற்சியை கடைப்பிடி உன் தாய் கற்பித்ததை தள்ளி விடாதே?

?அவை தலைக்கு மணிமுடி உன் கழுத்துக்கு மணிமாலை?

இதற்கிணங்க பிள்ளைகளை கண்டித்து திருத்தி கண்ணியமாக அன்பான அரவணைப்பால், சினேகிதராக அணுகுவதுதான் சாலச்சிறந்தது. கடும் சொற்களாலும், அதிகாரம் கொண்ட செயலாலும், நாம் பிள்ளைகளை நல்வழிப்படுத்த முடியாது. எல்லா சுதந்திரமும் கொண்ட இந்நாட்டில் நாம் வன்முறை மூலம் பிள்ளைகளை வளர்க்க முற்பட்டால் பிளவுதான் ஏற்படும்.

பிள்ளைகளுக்கு எரிச்சல் ஊட்டி, மனம் தளர செய்யக்கூடாது. பிள்ளைகளை முறையான அணுகுமுறையோடு அன்புடன் கலந்த தண்டனைதான் மிகச் சிறந்தது. தீயவனை நல்லவனாக்குவதும், நல்லவனை தீயவனாக்குவதும் பெற்றோரில்தான் தங்கி உள்ளது.

குழந்தை தாயின் வயிற்றில் இருந்து உதிக்கும் போது அந்த பிஞ்சு உள்ளத்தில் எந்த விதமான கலப்படமும் இருக்காது. பின் அது தன் தாயின் அன்பிலும், அரவணைப்பிலும், தந்தையின் பாதுகாப்பிலும் வளர்க்கப்படுகின்றது. அயல் சூழல் அதை அலங்காரப்படுத்தும், அல்லது அழிவுப் பாதைக்கு இட்டுச்செல்லும். ஒரு குடும்பம் தம் பிள்ளைகளும் தலைமுறையினரும் செழிப்புடன் திகழவும் சொத்து, செல்வம், பொன், பொருள் மட்டும் போதாது. கணவன், மனைவி இருவருள் இருக்கும் அன்பு, சமாதானம், மகிழ்ச்சி, புரிந்துணர்வு, மன்னித்தல், ஏற்றுக்கொள்ளல் என்பவற்றோடு உண்மை, நேர்மை, இறைபக்தி உள்ளவர்களாக இருக்கும் போது இது நல்வாழ்வு மட்டுமல்ல நம் அயலாரையும் வாழவைக்கும். நம் பிள்ளைகளையும் நல்லவர்களாக வளர்க்க வேண்டும். பகைமை, வைராக்கியம், துரோகங்களை மறந்து வாழும் போது தான் நம் பிள்ளைகளும் எதிர்காலத்தில் சிறந்த மக்களாக வாழ நாம் வழிகோல முடியும்.

நம் பிள்ளைகளை ஆரம்ப கல்விக்கு விடப்படும் போதே அவர்களை மிக மிக கண்ணியமான முறையில் கண்காணிக்கப்பட வேண்டும். ஆரம்பத்தில் அவர்கள் பாடசாலை வாழ்க்கை, வெளி வாழ்க்கைகளை கவனிக்க படாதிருப்பதால்தான் சில பிள்ளைகள் தீய வழிகளுக்கு ஆளாகுவார்கள். பெற்றோரின் கவனக் குறைவும், வேலைப்பழுக்கமும் வு.ஏ போன்ற தொலைக்காட்சிகள், தனிமைகளும் பிள்ளைகளை தவறான வழிக்கு செல்வதற்கு காரணியாகின்றன. பெற்றோர் இருவரும் ஒரே நேரத்தில் வேலைக்கு செல்லாது, இரு பகுதியாக பணிபுரிந்தால் பிள்ளைகளை சிறந்த முறையில் நடத்த ஏதுவாய் இருக்கும்.

பெற்றோரின் பாசம் சிறு வயதினருக்கு மட்டுமல்ல, இளைஞர், யுவதிகளுக்கும் அவசியம் தேவை. அவர்கள் மனதில் உள்ள இன்ப, துன்ப அபிலாஷைகளை பகிர்ந்து கொள்ள பெற்றோர் பங்கு நிச்சயம் வேண்டும். தமிழ் மக்களாகிய நம் அனைவர் இல்லங்களிலும் வேலை சென்று வந்ததும் கணவன், மனைவிக்கிடையே பல, பல கோணங்களில் சச்சரவு சண்டைகள். சில குடும்பங்களில் பணப் பிரச்சினை மூலம் மற்றவர்களுக்கு உதவி செய்வதால் ஏற்படும் தீராத சண்டை. வாக்குவாதம் இவற்றை எல்லாம் பார்த்திருக்கும் சிறு பிள்ளைகள் மட்டில் விரக்தி. பெற்றோர் மட்டில் வெறுப்பு, வளர வளர வேறு பாதைகளில் அவர்கள் ஆட்கொள்ளப்படுகின்றார்கள். வளர்ந்தோர் வீட்டில் இருக்க முடியாது தவறான இடங்களில் சென்று மது, போதைவஸ்து, புகைத்தல் இன்னும் பல கெட்ட வழிகளில் தவறி பின அது அடிக்கடி சண்டைகளாக கொலை முயற்சிகலும் ஆளாக்கப்படுகின்றார்கள். சிறு வயதிலே கல்வியை இழந்து விடுகின்றார்கள். பிள்ளைகள் பிழை விடும் அருணங்களில் அவர்களை திருத்தி நல்முறைபடுத்த நிச்சயம் பெற்றோரால் முடியும். பெற்றோர் பிள்ளைகளை தண்டித்து நல்ல முறையில் வளர்க்காவிட்டால் அவர்கள் அன்பில்லாதவர்கள் என்பதுதான். பெற்றோர் தான் எண்ணியதைதான் பிள்ளைகள் செய்ய வேண்டும், பெற்றோரின் கட்டுப்பாட்டில் பிள்ளை வளர்க்கப்பட வேண்டும் என்று முரண்பாடான கருத்து வேறுபாடுகளால் உந்தப்பட்டவர்களாய் இளைய தலைமுறையினரின் அபிலாஷைகளை எதிர்த்து நிற்பதால் பிள்ளைகள், பெற்றோர் மட்டில் இடைவெளி வெகுவாக அதிகரிக்கின்றது. பழையகால பழக்க வளக்கங்கள் வழிமுறைகளை தாமும் பின்பற்றி தம் பிள்ளைகளையும் இட்டுச் செல்லப் பார்ப்பதினால் சில பிள்ளைகள் பெற்றோரை விட்டு விலகி தவறான தீய பழக்க வழக்கங்களுக்கு ஆளாக்கப்பட்டு சிலவேளைகளில் தான் எண்ணிய வாழ்க்கையின் சீரழிக்கபடுகின்றார்கள். இவற்றிற்கெல்லாம் முக்கிய காரணிகள் பெற்றோரின் அணுகுமுறைகள்தான். ஆகையால் பிள்ளைகளே! பெற்றோரில் குறைகளை கூறிவிட்டு உங்கள் வாழ்க்கையை நீங்கள் சீரழிக்காதீர்கள். பெற்றோரை வழிநடத்துவதும் உங்கள் கையில். குழந்தாய் உன் தந்தையின் முதுமையில் அவருக்கு உதவு அவர் உள்ளத்தை புண்படுத்தாதே. உன் தாயின் அன்பிற்கும் அரவணைப்பிற்கும் ஈடேது.

இந்த கனடா நாட்டில் வாழும் எத்தனை இளைஞர் யுவதிகள் தங்கள் கல்வியை தொடர்ந்து கற்காது பாதியிலே விட்டு படுகுழியில் வீழ்கின்றார்கள். காலம் போனாலும் பின்னும் தொடரக்கூடிய கல்வி வளத்தை இந்தநாடு தந்திருக்கின்றது. எத்தனை இன்னல்கள், சோதனைகள் இருந்துபோதும் மன உறுதியுடன், நம்பிக்கை உள்ளவர்களாக நீங்கள் உங்கள் கல்வியை தொடருங்கள். கல்வியை கற்பவன் பெற்றோரை மதிக்க தெரிந்தவனாய் இருப்பான். புண்பட்ட வாழ்வை பண்பட்ட மகிழ்வாக்கும் செல்வங்களில் மிக உன்னதமானதும் உப்பரிகை மிக்கதும் கல்விச் செல்வமே. கல்விக்கு நிறம் இல்லை அது நீளமானது, கல்விக்கு சாதி இல்லை.

கல்விக்கு மணம் இல்லை, அது மானம் காப்பது. கல்விக்கு ஆசை இல்லை அது அலங்காரமானது. எத்தனை விடயங்களை தேடினாலும் தீய சக்திகளை உங்கள் உள்ளங்களிலிருந்து வேரோடு பிடுங்கி எறிந்து விட்டு நல் மக்களாய் வாழுங்கள். மனித வாழ்வில் இழப்புக்கள் பல கோணங்களில் , பல உருவங்களில் அனைவரையும் சந்திக்கின்றன. திடீர் மரணம், அடிதடி நிகழும் இயற்கை. செயற்கை மரண அனர்த்தம் விபத்து மரணம் இதை மனிதன் ஓரளவு ஏற்றுக் கொள்கிறான். ஆனால் சமூக விரோத கொலைகளால் மனிதன் நிலைகுலைந்து தடுமாறி தத்தளிக்கின்றான். எங்கள் மத்தியில் அன்பு கொண்ட எத்தனை நெஞ்சங்களை பறிகொடுத்து பதிதவிக்கின்றோம். இப்படிப்பட்ட கொடூர சம்பவங்களில் இருந்து விடுபடவே பிள்ளைகளை பெற்றவர்கள் படும் துயர் தான் எத்தனை, எத்தனை. பாலூட்டி சீராட்டி தன் நெஞ்சமதில் அணைகடந்த கனவுகளுடனும் கற்பனைகளுடனும் வாழ்ந்து வரும் பெற்றோர். ஆனால் பெற்றோரின் கவனக்குறைவுதான் பிள்ளைகளை தகுந்த முறையில் தக்க தருணத்தில் கண்காணிக்காது விட்டதினால் இன்று எம் இளைஞர் மத்தியில் அவலங்கள் அதிகரிக்கின்றது. பெற்றோர் படும் வேதனை, துயரம், இழப்பு எப்படித்தான் சொல்வது. ஒரு தாய் படும் கஸ்டம் மறு தாய்க்குத்தான் தெரியும். தன் மகன், மகள் பல கஸ்டங்களில் இருந்து விடுவட்டுவிட்டாள் என்ற நம்பிக்கையுடனும், அபிலாஷைகளுடனும் இக்கனடா நாட்டிற்கு அனுப்பிவிட்டு அவனின் உதவிகளையும் அன்பினையும் எதிர்பார்த்திருக்கும் பெற்றோர் அவன் கொலை செய்யப்பட்டுவிட்டான் என்றறிந்ததும் அவர்கள் நிலை எப்படி இருக்கும். நம் நாட்டில் இளைஞர், யுவதிகள் படும் அவலங்கள் எத்தனை நிம்மதியான தூக்கம் இல்லை. நேரத்துக்கு உணவுமில்லை, நிரந்தர கல்வி இல்லை மனதில் நிம்மதி இழந்து நாளுக்கு நாள் உறவுகளை இழந்து தவிக்கும் நம் இளைய சமுதாயத்திற்காக இரத்தக் கண்ணீர் விடும் பெற்றோருக்காக போர் சூழலால் இருளாக்கப்பட்டிருக்கும் நம் நாட்டிற்காக தாய் மண்ணிற்காக.

கனடா வாழ் பெற்றோரும், பிள்ளைகளும் முன்மாதிரியாக நடந்து அவர்கள் தேவைகளில் பங்கெடுத்து தம் வாழ்வையும் பெற்றோருடன் இணைந்து புதிய வாழ்வு பெறவும் இந்த ஆண்டிலே நல்லதொரு இளைய சமுதாயம் என்ற நற்பெயருடன் வாழ்வதே சாலச்சிறந்தது.

அழியாத கோலங்கள்...

வழி மறந்து வாழும் பெற்றோர்கள். வழி தேடி செல்லும் பிள்ளைகள். இதில் யாரை குற்றம் சொல்வது? எந்த குழந்தையும் நல்ல குழந்தைதான். பெற்றோர்களும் நல்லவர்கள்தான். இதில் நல்லவர்கள் கெட்டவர்கள் என்று யாரை சொல்வது? சந்தர்ப்பம் சூழ்நிலைதான் நம்மை மாற்றுகிறது. ஆம் அந்த சூழ்நிலையை நாம் தேடி போகின்றோம் அது நம்மை தேடி வருவதில்லை. அன்புக்கும் பண்புக்கும் உரித்தானவர்களே நீங்கள் உங்கள் பிள்ளைகளிடம் என்ன எதிர்பார்க்கிறீர்கள்? படிக்க வேண்டும், பட்டம் பெற வேண்டும் உங்கள் பெயர் சொல்ல வாழவேண்டும். அது ஓர் சாதாரண விஷயம். அது உங்கள் கையில்தான் இருக்கின்றது, அந்த ஆர்வம் நியாயமானது. ஆனால் உங்கள் பிள்ளைகள் உங்கள் இடத்தில் எதிர்பார்ப்பது? அன்பான அப்பா, அம்மா. எத்தனை பெற்றோர்கள் உங்கள் பிள்ளைகளின் எதிர்காலத்தை எண்ணிப் பார்த்திருக்கிறார்கள்?

எதிர்காலம் என்பது அவர்கள் உள்ளத்தில் துளிர்விடும் எண்ணங்கள். எத்தனை பெற்றோர்கள் அந்த எண்ணத்தை மதித்திருப்பீர்கள்? அவர்களை அவர்கள் போக்கில் போகவிடாது நீங்கள் இப்படித்தான் இருக்க வேண்டும் என்று அவர்களின் ஆசா பாசங்கள் எல்லாத்தையும் மண்ணோடு மண்ணாக புதைக்கின்றார்கள். அவர்கள் எண்ணம் மட்டும் புதைக்க படவில்லை. அவர்கள் வளர்ச்சியும் புதைக்கப்படுகின்றன. அப்படி புதைக்கப்படும் போதுதான் அவர்கள் வழிதவறி போகின்றார்கள். ஆம் பெற்றோர்களே நாம் இரத்தம் சிந்தி வேலை செய்வது வங்கியில் பணம் சேர்ப்பது அவர்களை நல்வழிப்படுத்தாது மற்றவர்களுக்காய் வாழ்வதை விட்டு உங்கள் பிள்ளைகளுக்காய் அவர்களின் எண்ணங்களை மதித்தவர்களாய் வாழ வேண்டும் அப்பொழுதுதான் உங்கள் ஆசைகள் மதிக்கப்படும். உங்கள் எண்ணம் நிறைவேறும். பெற்றோர்களே சிந்தியுங்கள். செயற்படுங்கள். நாம் சொந்த மண்ணை விட்டு வேறு இனத்தவர்களின் மண்ணில் வாழ்கின்றோம் நீங்கள் வாழ்ந்த சமுதாயம் உங்களது. நாம் வாழும் சமுதாயம் வேறு. இந்த சமுதாயத்திற்கு ஏற்றவாறு நாம் வாழவேண்டும். இல்லாவிட்டால் நாம் புறக்கணிக்கப்படுவோம். அதற்காக நாம் வழிதவறிப் போக மாட்டோம். நாம் உங்கள் பிள்ளைகள். தாயில் சிறந்த கோயிலும் இல்லை, தந்தை சொல் மிக்க மந்திரம் இல்லை என்று திருவாய் மலர்ந்தார்.

பெற்றோர்களே பகட்டான வாழ்க்கையை தேடி அலையாதீர்கள். உங்களை நீங்களே அழித்து விடுவீர்கள். உங்கள் பிள்ளைகளின் எதிர்காலம் அழிந்துவிடும். உங்கள் நிகழ்காலம்தான் பிள்ளைகளின் எதிர்காலம். நீங்கள் வழிதவறிப் போனால் அவர்கள் வழி மறந்துவிடுவார்கள். பெற்றோர்களே நீங்கள் படும் கஷ்டம் உங்கள் பிள்ளைகள் படவேண்டுமா? அது உங்களோடு நிற்கட்டும். சிந்தித்து பாருங்கள் நீங்கள் கஸ்ரப்படுவது எதற்காக? உங்கள் பிள்ளைகளின் எதிர்காலம் நல்லாக இருக்க வேண்டும் என்றுதானே. நான் சொல்ல வந்தது எது என்று தெரிந்து இருக்கும். நீங்கள் எதிர்பார்ப்பது போல் உங்கள் பிள்ளைகளும் எதிர்பார்ப்பார்கள். இதை புரிந்து கொண்டால் பிள்ளைகளின் எதிர்காலம் நன்றாக அமையும். உணர்ச்சிகளை மதிப்போம் உணர்வோடு வாழ்வோம்.

-என்றும் உங்கள் நண்பன்.

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Why Men Have It So Easy

I can come home anytime I want, sometimes I don't come home at all, I can go topless in the summer, I do not PMS every month for 7 days of every year until I'm 50, I have 5 minutes of pleasure and voila! a baby is born, my laundry is done for me, my bed is made for me, meals are cooked and served on a plate for me, my biggest dilemma in life is which club to hit with my boys. Who am I?.....You guessed it – A MAN!

Men – not only from the Tamil community, but from all cultures, races and color - have it easy. Obviously they won't agree with this comment, nor this entire article for that matter, but that is yet another one of their much-loved qualities – they just won't admit the truth. Men are seen as the 'head' (more accurately referred to as 'hard-headed') of the family, but the days where the men bring home the money and the women stay at home to cook and clean are long over. Now, they are more like the tail of the family. These days, women are smart enough (in most cases much smarter than men) to earn almost as much if not more than their male companions. But their capabilities are not recognized nor applied. Sure, these days society is improving and some things are viewed equally among men and women. For example, the bills are split 50/50, however, the house chores are not. What's even more disappointing is that even second-generation immigrants who grew up in western society and are highly educated adopt this way of thinking and adhere to this lifestyle. There are still many young, educated Tamil men out there who raise their hands to their wife/girlfriend to shut her up during an argument. And there are still many young, educated Tamil women out there who stand there and take it. Why does this cycle of life still continue among Tamils even in an evolved country like Canada? Why are women so under-developed? Why are women still the weaker sex? What is it about the Tamil culture that blindly advocates the superiority of men and inferiority of women? – The root cause of this is the upbringing of our parents. Women are raised to be passive and men are raised to be aggressive. Unfortunately this is what our parents were taught back home by their parents, and they are now passing it on to us. Men are the strong protectors and money-making machines, while women are the weak baby-making machines. This way of life worked well in Sri Lanka, but it is just not acceptable today in a country like Canada. How many of us have heard of a Tamil woman coming home after work, sitting down and putting her feet up while her husband hurries to bring her a nice hot cup of tea? – None.

It is our parents who instill in us the notion that girls must come home before dark. It is our parents who tell us to stay at home and learn how to cook. It is our parents who teach us that boys can go out and have fun, but girls can't. What they don't realize is that this over protectiveness is what causes girls to lie about having 'computer classes' or 'study sessions at a friend's house' or 'night class'. The main reason parents suppress their daughters is that they are worried about what 'people would think'. It would ruin their daughter's reputation and her market for marriage will go down if the neighbours saw her coming home late. When will Tamil parents finally say 'who cares what others think?'. When will they finally realize that there's no harm in having a little bit of fun once in a while? (with limits of course). When will they learn that cooking and cleaning shouldn't be a girl's only extra-curricular activity? When will they realize that life is too short to be living according to other people's expectations?

Parents also attribute their strict upbringing to the fact that girls can come home pregnant while guys can't. They think shielding their daughters from the world by keeping them locked up at home will prevent them from going out and getting a boyfriend. And if their innocent little daughter goes out and gets one nevertheless, then it just has to be her friends' fault. A child's choice of friends have very little to do with the way they turn out. If kids get enough support and intellectual guidance from home, why would they turn to their friends for direction? If young teenage girls acquire self-confidence and emotional strength, they would know better than to allow negative influences to overcome them. They would be able to decipher right from wrong and make valid, practical judgments, instead of allowing others to make their decisions for them.

What a lot of Tamil parents fail to realize is that it is better to be their children's friends first, then their parents. They should encourage their daughters to be strong and dependent, and not to settle down as a housewife. Many Tamil women are lost when their husbands are not around. Many of them (including myself) would burst into tears if they were left in the middle of an unknown street to find their own way home. They need to get up and maintain a social life and awareness outside of the four walls of their kitchen. By being too sheltered and hidden from the real world, women remain in the dark about many things. Parents should allow their daughters to go away from home for university. Allow them to go on vacations. Allow them to get a job. Allow them to experience what's out there; the good as well as the bad. That is the only way they will grow into mature, intelligent, street – as well as book – smart young women who do not have to live in the shadow of their men.

Thusha Tarmalingam

THE TRIALS & TRIBULATIONS OF PARENTING IN CANADA

Immigrating to a new country and establishing a life here is hard enough. But when it comes to changing parenting in order to adapt to Canada, many people experience difficulty. Tamil youth are the immediate result of the parenting they receive. So where is the balance between traditional and modern parenting? While many believe they should stick with tradition, it is best to figure out what is more appropriate for your teen.

While tradition is good, it separates youth from others. Whether it be dating, curfews, or even friends in general, youth seem to be alienated from others when representing their culture to an extreme. But they will also be alienated from family and (cultural) social events if they are brought up in a westernized fashion.

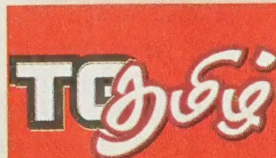
Fashion is a major issue between mothers and daughters in Canada. While parents may fantasize about their young ones going to school in braids and garlands of flowers, it is not a reality. It should be acceptable to wear western clothing in a western school. But just because a teenager can wear western clothing doesn't mean they can completely rid themselves of their culture and wear miniskirts and belly tops out in the open. It should be known in a household, what kind of rules there are about clothing.

Dating is a humongous problem in many households, despite a parent's lack of knowledge. While other cultures may allow their children to date freely, apparently the Tamil culture doesn't. So many children date without the parent's approval or knowledge for that matter. Why constrict youth so that they must lie to their parents? Teens need to feel that they may be open to their parents, whatever the subject may be. So discuss the issue as a family, and come up with solutions and compromises that satisfy both the teen and parents.

Parents believe that the only parties are family parties. But friends have a new importance in Canada, and most teens consider their friends a high priority. This becomes a conflict when social outings come into play. While it is necessary to spend time with family, many also consider their friends as family. Parents need to understand that outings with friends isn't as dangerous as it seems to be. "Chilling" is not slang for doing drugs. Parents have the ability to learn more about their child's friends and see for themselves, whether they make a good impact on their child or not. Therefore taking the time to learn about your teen and their friends would make letting them out for social gatherings less of a burden.

While there are many more issues that youth and their respective parents have to deal with, they all have one resolution. Communication can work wonders, and improves the relationship between generations. Whatever the problem may be, whether it be clothes, friends, or dating, talking things out and discussions can be the ultimate solution to the battle of the cultures.

Akalya Atputharajah



In a Canadian society, the Tamil community is struggling to adapt to the westernized culture. We the youth tend to rebel against our parents, because of the need to adapt and change to fit in with the society we live in. However, we cannot blame the parents, they are only trying to keep their tradition and culture alive. One of the biggest problems that the youth of our society face revolves around school most of the time, where around six hours of the day is spent.

Most of our parents do not realize the peer pressure that we go through at school. It is as if they still think that we are back home. If we were to get a 97% average, the typical Tamil parent would grate us about the other 3%. Parents should realize that there is no ranking system in Canada. In our native country, everything was based on the ranking system. Not only that, but even if one were to get a good average it wasn't enough, due to the financial status. Us the youth do realize that our parents are only asking us for the other 3% because they want a better future for us. When they see us, they think of the future, hoping that we will eventually become; doctors, engineers, lawyers and such.

It is so typical for Tamil youth from our society to go into one of the mentioned fields. However, in the westernized country that we live in, there is space for so much more. We could become artists, musicians, social workers, etc. Since our parents are used to the idea of giving birth to; doctors, engineers, and lawyers making enough money to live, the thought of one going into the arts, or humanities is shocking to them. But what should shock them even more is that we are capable of going through school life with all of the peer pressure around us. Not all parents are like this however, because many of them have realized the opportunities that Canada has to offer us.

Living in Canada has opened our mind to many different ways of surviving. Some of us in the youth community consider our social engagements a higher priority than our career. All of us realize though that we have to take the chances that we get, and make our parents proud. If our parents knew, then some things might change.

Thulasi Manoharalingam

பேற்றோர்களும் பிள்ளைகளும்??..

கனடிய இலங்கைத் தமிழர்களாகிய எங்கள் குடும்பத்தில் உள்ள உறவு முறையில் ஓர் கண்ணோட்டம்??..

மாதா, பிதா, குரு, தெய்வம் என்று முதன்மைப்படுத்தப்பட்ட உறவுகளில் தாய், தந்தை உறவு போற்றுதற்குரியதாகும். ?அன்னையும் பிதாவும் முன்னறி செய்வம்? என்று சான்றோர்கள் கூறியுள்ளார்கள். உறவுகளில் பெற்றோர்களின் உறவே மேன்மையானதாக எக்காலத்திலும் சித்திரிக்கப்படுகின்றது. மனிதர்கள் மட்டுமன்றி எல்லாவிதமான உயிரினங்களும் அவ்வாறான ஒரு பந்தத்திற்குள் ஆட்படுத்தப் பட்டிருப்பதை நாங்கள் சற்று சிந்தித்தால் அவதானிக்கக் கூடியதாக இருக்கும். இந்த உன்னதமான உறவுமுறையில் மனிதனின் உறவுமுறையைப் பார்ப்போமாயின் பெற்றோரிற்கும் பிள்ளைகளிற்கும் உள்ள உறவுமுறை மற்றும் பிள்ளைகளை வளர்க்கும் முறை போன்றவற்றில் பல வேறுபாடுகள் இருப்பதை நாம் பலவிதமான காரணிகளில் கவனிக்கக் கூடியதாக இருக்கும். ஒவ்வொரு நாடுகளிற்கிடையிலும், நகரங்களிற்கிடையிலும், சமூகங்களிற்கிடையிலும் ஏன் வீட்டிற்கு வீடே வளர்ப்பு முறையில் வித்தியாசப்படுவதை அவதானிக்கக் கூடியதாக உள்ளது.



தமிழர்களாகிய எங்கள் சமுதாயத்தில் பிள்ளைகளை வளர்க்கும் முறையில் உள்ள வேறுபாடுகள் உறவுமுறையில் உள்ள பிரச்சினைகள், பிரச்சினைகளை தோற்றுவிக்கும் காரணிகள் போன்ற சில விடயங்களை ஒப்பீட்டளவில் இலங்கையிலும் வெளிநாடுகளிலும் எவ்வாறு வேறுபடுகின்றது என்பதுபற்றி சற்று அலசுவோம். இப்படியான ஒரு கண்ணோட்டம் ஏன் பரிணாமங்கள், திணிக்கப்பட்ட புதிய வாழ்க்கை முறை (வெளிநாடு) இப்படியாக பல காரணிகள் உறவுமுறையில் மாற்றங்களை உருவாக்கியிருக்கின்றன.

பொதுவாகவே தமிழர்களாகிய எங்கள் குழந்தைகள் வளரும் முறை மற்றைய சமூகங்களிலிருந்து சற்றே வேறுபட்டாற் போல இருக்கின்றது. வேறுபாடு என்பது அன்பில் ஒரு மாற்றத்தையும் காட்டவில்லை. பாசத்தையும் அன்பையும் காட்டுவதில் அதிலும் பிள்ளைகளில் அன்பைப் பொழிவதில் வேறு இனத்தவரை விட எவ்விதத்திலும் எமது இனத்தவர் குறைந்தவர்களில்லை. சில வேளைகளில் அன்பும் பாசமும் நிஜச்சூழலை மறைத்து விடுகின்றது. அளவிற்கு அதிகமான கட்டுப்பாடற்ற பாசத்தினால் பிள்ளைகளை வளர்க்கும் முறையில் உள்ள அடிப்படை அத்திவாரத்தில் ஈடாட்டத்தைக் கொண்டு வந்துவிடுகின்றார்கள். இவ்வகையான தவறுகளை உணர்வதற்கு அவர்களிற்கு குறைந்தது பதினாறு வருடங்களாவது பிடிக்கின்றது.

இவ்வகையான தவறிற்குரிய காரணங்கள் யாவை? புலம்பெயர்ந்து கண்டம் விட்டு கண்டம் வந்து வித்தியாசமான ஒரு நாடு, சமூகம், மொழி, கலாச்சாரம், இனவேறுபாடு, வாழ்க்கைமுறை மற்றும் நாகரிக மாற்றங்கள் இவர்களை சற்றே தடுமாற வைத்துவிடுகின்றது. அவ்வகையான தடுமாற்றத்திற்கு கொடுக்கப்படும் பரிசுகள்தான் இவ்வகையான பிரச்சினைகளின் மூல காரணிகள்.

பொதுவாகவே குழந்தைகள் கண்ணாடியைப் போன்றவர்கள். அவதானமாக அவர்கள் கையாளப்படல் வேண்டும். அவ்வாறு கையாளப்படும் பிள்ளைகள் மிகவும் துலக்கமானவர்களாக இருப்பார்கள். சற்றே பெற்றோர்களின் கவனம் கலைக்கப்படின் அவர்கள் சுக்குநூறாக்கப்படுவார்கள். குழந்தைகளின் உள்வாங்கலும் பிரதிபலிப்பும் பெற்றோர்கள் எவ்வாறு இருக்கிறார்கள் என்பதைப் பொறுத்தே பொதுவாக அமையும். பிள்ளைகள் தங்கள் சுற்றுப்புறச சூழலில் இருந்தே பலதையும் கற்றுக் கொள்கிறார்கள். அவர்களின் பார்வையில் தெரிவதை அப்படியே உள்வாங்கி வெளிக்காட்டுகிறார்கள். பெற்றோர்கள் காட்டும் அதீத அன்பை சில குழந்தைகள் சுயநலமாக பயன்படுத்துவதை நாம் அவதானிக்கக்கூடியதாக இருக்கும். அவ்வகையான செயற்பாடு பழை என்று குழந்தைக்கு தெரியாது. எனினும் அதன் உள்நோக்கத்தை எம்மால் புரிந்து கொள்ளக்கூடியதாக இருக்கும். உதாரணமாக தாம் அழுதால் பெற்றோர்கள் இரங்குவார்கள் என்று தெரிந்த குழந்தைகள் அழுதே தமக்குத் தேவையான காரியங்களை சாதித்துவிடுகின்றன. கட்டுப்பாடற்ற ஒருவிதமான அன்பு பிள்ளைகளை குழப்பமான நிலைக்கு இட்டுச் சென்றுவிடும். எங்கள் சமூகத்தில் குழந்தைகள் குறைந்தது பத்து வயது வரையாவது பெற்றோர்களுடன்தான் உறங்குகிறார்கள். இது ஓர் தவறான செயற்பாடாகும். சுழந்தைகளின் மனவியல் வளர்ச்சியில் ஒரு குழப்பமான நிலையை அடைய நேரிடும். குழந்தைகள் சிறுவயதிலிருந்தே தனிப்படுக்கையில் உறங்கப் பழக்கப்படுத்தப்பட வேண்டும். இவ்வகையான பழக்கம் ஆரம்பத்தில் கடினமாயினும் காலப்போக்கில் பிள்ளைகள் அனாவசியமான காரணங்களிற்கு மன உளைச்சல் அடையமாட்டார்கள். ஆழ்ந்த உறக்கத்தைப் பெற்று புத்துணர்வாக இருப்பார்கள்.

பொதுவாகவே பிள்ளைகள் பருவ வயதை அடையும்போது அவர்களுடன் மிகவும் அவதானமாக பழகி அவர்களை தோழமை உணர்வுடன் அணுக வேண்டும். பருவ வயதும், விடலைப் பருவமும் மிகவும் குழப்பமான சிந்தனையையும் வெளிப்பாடுகளையும் கொண்ட பருவமாகவே பொதுவாக அமையும். ?ஓமோன்? சுரப்பிகள் உடல் வளர்ச்சியில் ஏற்படுத்தும் பாரிய மாற்றங்களால் இவ்வயதில் அவர்கள் மனங்களும் குழப்பமான ஒரு தோழமை உணர்வுடன் பழக வேண்டும். இரண்டும் கெட்டான் என்று கூறுவது இவ்வயதைத்தான். இவ்வயதினரை ஈர்ப்பது கவர்ச்சியும், வெளித்தோற்றமும் மட்டுமே. சரி, பிழை எது என்பதை கணிக்கும் நிலையில் இல்லாத ஒரு பக்குவம்.



தமிழ் சமூகமாகிய எங்கள் குழந்தைகளின் பருவ மற்றும் விடலைப் பருவத்தினரின் நிலை கனடா நாட்டில் எவ்வாறு உள்ளது. அவர்களின் உறவு பெற்றோர்களிடம் எவ்வாறு உள்ளது என்பதை சற்று அலசுவோம். இளம் பருவத்தினராகிய எங்கள் சமூகத்தின் குழந்தைகளின் வீட்டு வாழ்க்கையும் வெளியுலக வாழ்க்கையும் ஒன்றுக்கு ஒன்று முரண்பட்டதாகவே இருக்கின்றது. வீட்டில் வளரும் போதுஅவர்கள் ஒரு இலங்கை தமிழர்களாகவும் வெளியுலகில் கனடியர்களாகவும் இரு முகங்களைக் கொண்டு வாழ்கிறார்கள். இவ்வகையான இருசமகோட்டு வாழ்க்கை பருவ வயதுக் குழந்தைகளை குழப்பத்தில் தள்ளுகின்றது. இவர்கள் பெரும்பாலும் வெளியுலக வாழ்க்கையாகிய கனடிய வாழ்க்கையைத்தான் தெரிவு செய்கிறார்கள். அந்த முயற்சியில் தங்கள் பெற்றோர்களுடன் முரண்படுகிறார்கள். இவ்வகையான குழந்தைகளின் நிலை இருக்கின்றது.

10ஆம் பக்கம்

பேற்றோர்களும் பிள்ளைகளும்??..

2ஆம் பக்கத்தொடர்....

கனடிய தமிழ் பெற்றோர்களையும் அவர்களின் குழந்தைகளிற்கு இடையேயான உறவு முறையையும் சற்றுப் பார்ப்போம். இந்த உறவு முறையில் கூடுதலாக பெற்றோர்கள் மிகவும் குழப்பமான நிலையில் உள்ளார்கள். கூடுதலான பெற்றோர்கள் தங்கள் குழந்தைகளை வளர்ப்பதற்கு இலங்கையில் குழந்தைகளை வளர்க்கும் முறையையே கையாளுகின்றார்கள். இங்கே தான் பிரச்சினையே உருவாகுகின்றது. பெற்றோர்கள் பிள்ளைகளை தங்கள் ஆதிக்கத்திலேயே வைத்திருக்க நினைக்கிறார்கள். தாங்கள் நினைப்பது போல் பிள்ளையின் செயற்பாடு இல்லாதவிடத்து அவர்கள் பிள்ளைகளின் மேல் கடினத்தை பாவிக்கிறார்கள். முற்று முழுதாக இப்படித்தான் நடக்கிறது என்றும் கூறமுடியாது. பெற்றோர்கள் பிள்ளைகளிடத்து நம்பிக்கை வைக்க வேண்டும். இல்லாவிடில் அவர்கள் பிள்ளைகளின் ஒவ்வொரு செயற்பாட்டிலும் பிழையையே காண்பார்கள். தாங்கள் சிறுவயதில் எப்படி வளர்ந்தோம் என்று ஒப்பிட்டுப் பார்த்துக் குழப்பிவிடுவார்கள். தாங்கள் இந்த நிலையை அடைவதற்கு செய்த தியாகங்கள், பட்ட கஷ்டங்களை பிள்ளைகள் மேல் திணிக்க முற்படுவார்கள். பெற்றோர்கள் தங்கள் குழந்தைகளை தங்கள் கண்களினூடாக (பார்வை) பார்க்க வேண்டும் என்று விரும்புகிறார்கள். இது நம்பிக்கையீனத்தையே கொடுக்கின்றது. நான் (பெற்றோர்) அந்த வயதில் எப்படி இருந்தேன் அதே போல் என் பிள்ளையும் அந்த வயதில் இருப்பான் என்றோ அல்லது தனக்கு கிடைத்த ஒரு கண்டிப்பான கட்டுப்பாட்டு வாழ்க்கைதான். தன் குழந்தைக்கும் உதவும் என்ற பக்குவப்படாத எண்ணம் (இடம், காலம், மாற்றம் என்பவற்றை உணராத தன்மை) இப்படியான கருத்துக்கள் பிள்ளைகளிற்கும் பெற்றோர்களிற்கும் இடையில் உள்ள ஒரு ஒவ்வாத தன்மையைக் கொடுக்கின்றது. இது முற்று முழுதாக ஒரு பிழையான செயற்பாடாகும். பிள்ளைகளை வளர்ப்பது நல்ல நிலைக்கு கொண்டுவருவது தியாகம் அல்ல. அது பெற்றவர்களின் கடமை. பெற்றவர்கள் பல விடயங்களில் பிள்ளைகளின் பார்வையில் பார்ப்பதே நன்மை பயக்கும். அப்போதுதான் அவர்களின் பிரச்சினைகளை இனங்கண்டு அதிலிருந்து அவர்கள் மீள்வதற்கு உதவி செய்யலாம். கல்வி முதல் வெளியுலக பிரச்சினைவரை இளம் வயதினரை தோழமையுணர்வுடன் அணுகும் பட்சத்தில் அவர்களை மேம்பட்டவர்களாக்கலாம். ?அளவுக்கு மிஞ்சினால் அமுதமும் நஞ்சு? என்பது போல் அளவுக்கு மீறிய கண்டிப்பும், கரிசனையும், அறிவுரையும் அவர்களை மேலும் பிரச்சினைகளிற்குள்ளேயே அமிழ்த்திவிடும். சிறு வயதில் குழந்தைகளிற்கு குரங்கும் தொப்பிக்காரனும் கதையை கூறியிருப்போம். அதேபோல் தான் பெற்றோரும் பல சமயங்களில் தொப்பிக்காரனைப் போல் சமயோசிதமாக நடக்க வேண்டும்.

பெற்றோரிற்கும் பிள்ளைகளிற்கும் இடையில் உள்ள உறவு வித்தியாசப் படுவதையும் அதன் காரணங்களையும் ஆரம்பத்தில் பார்த்தோம். சமூக காரணிகள், குடும்ப அந்தஸ்து மற்றும் பெற்றோர்களின் கல்வியறிவும் இதற்கு காரணமாக இருப்பதையும் அவதானிக்கலாம். நாட்டுக்கு நாடு பிள்ளைகளிற்கும் பெற்றோர்களிற்கும் உள்ள உறவு முறை மேலும் வளர்ப்பு முறை பெரிதும் வேறுபடுவதை கண்டோம். இலங்கையில் பிள்ளைகளை வளர்க்கும் முறையில் சில கடினங்கள் இருப்பதை அவதானிக்க வேண்டும். இலங்கை கலாச்சாரமும் வாழ்க்கை முறையும் கனடாவில் இருந்து வேறுபடுகின்றது. கனடாவில் பெரிதும் ஓர் கட்டுக்கோப்பான அரச அமைப்பும் நிர்வாக அமைப்பும் இருப்பதை அவதானிக்கலாம். ஆனால் இலங்கையில் அப்படியானதொரு கட்டுக்கோப்பான அமைப்பு இல்லையென்றே கூறலாம். இவ்வகையான காரணிகள் கூட பிள்ளைகளை அடித்து வளர்ப்பதற்கு ஏதுவாக இருக்கின்றது. அடித்து வளர்ப்பது போல பாடசாலைகளில் ஆசிரியர்கள் அடித்துப் படிப்பிப்பது என்பனவெல்லாம் அடித்தல் என்பது ஒரு கலாச்சாரம் போல் ஒரு தோற்றத்தைக் காட்டுகின்றது. இதன் பலாபலன்களையும் நன்மை தீமையையும் சரிபிழையென்று நூறு விகிதம் கூறுவது ஒரு கடினமான முடிவாக இருக்கும். ஒப்பீட்டளவில் பார்த்து நன்மைகளைத் தரும் நடைமுறைகளைப் பின்பற்றுவதே சாலச்சிறந்தது.

?நல்லதோர் வீணை செய்து அதை நலம்கெட புழுதியில் எறிவதுண்டோ சொல்லடி சிவசக்தி????.?

சிந்திப்போம், செயற்படுவோம், உறவுப்பாலத்தை உரமாக்குவோம்.

என்றென்றும் உங்கள் நண்பன்

இவன்

வதிரியான்

THE EVOLUTION OF SINGLE PARENTS IN THE TAMIL COMMUNITY

Parenthood is another stage in life that most of us will endure at some point or another. It makes us grow up and take responsibility, as well as allowing us to witness a real miracle that is your very own flesh and blood which you created, with love.

Although parenthood does offer a lot of perks, it's hard not to let the stress and chaos get to you. As if parenthood isn't difficult enough, the reality of single parents is even more complex to bear. Having two parents was considered normal; the nuclear family consisted of a mother, a father and their children. But the days of the nuclear family have declined and we have now been adapted to single parent families that are often struggling to raise their children while being judged by the rest of the world. As a result, the product of a single parent family has gotten negative feelings, often stereotyping the children as drop-outs, troubled, and confused about their own goals in life. Families with single parents have evolved slowly past these stereotypes in the Canadian society, but with much hard work. Now it's not frowned upon when a child tells their friend that they live with just mommy and daddy is someone who barely comes around. Mothers of a single parent household aren't always looked at with labels such as whore, or failure running through people's minds. This is due to single mothers taking control of their lives, learning to survive successfully as well as raise their children on a single income, with little or no help from what is popularly known as the baby's daddy.

Unfortunately the same cannot be said about the Tamil society. Even though we are Tamils residing in Canada, the stereotype is harsher on single parents. The actuality of single parent families is that the parent is often the mother. It's seldom that the father is the one taking care of his children, unless the separation is due to a divorce or death in which case the father is often re-married. The same cannot be said for single Tamil mothers. If a single mother has been divorced then the assumption is that she might be a drama queen, because a man can never leave a proper lady and so re-marriage can only be an option but with minimal choices as to who she can re-marry (the usual prospects are much older men and attraction or love is not even taken into account). If her husband has died than re-marriage is a possibility but that depends entirely on age as well as wealth. But through it all, the chance of creating a new life for a Tamil woman is rare compared to that of a Tamil man. This is because the gender separation has still not left the Tamil ideology. Due to this, the children of a single mother family are also condemned because of the choices of the mother. As a mother, the choice is naturally to prioritize the children and so the mother often sacrifices her own ambitions or expectations in order to provide her children with a bright future. These choices though are seen as unacceptable according to our cultural standards because a woman must seek some sort of protection from a man, be it her father, brother or husband. But why is there no faith that a Tamil woman IS capable of raising a family, of providing for her children, of being able to protect herself and live a successful life on her own?

As a community, we should be able to support the mothers that have taken the responsibility of their family upon themselves because it is revolutionary that Tamil woman have the resources available to them in Canada to do so. It is quite overwhelming as it is, but with the entire community only watching closely for failure only makes the rocky road further difficult. The idea of a family being incomplete without both parents has been vanquished because it has been proven that a single parent can successfully raise their children, and implement morals and beliefs that will lead them in a positive route. Being raised by a single mother myself, I testify that I would not be the independent, successful woman I am today without seeing her being able to overcome the obstacles on her own. By seeing your own parent battle life solely, the child can only hope to prevent their parent from never enduring anymore pain than they already have, making that child stronger, wiser and determined towards success, just to make that parent smile because their effort and sacrifices have not gone to waste.

Jaimi Alexander

Plea of a Son ...

This interview took place in jail between a TO Tamil journalist and a 22-year-old convicted male. He was born in Sri Lanka and immigrated to Canada at the age of nine. He completed elementary school and failed to graduate from secondary school. The individual that we have interview wishes to remain anonymous and TO Tamil respects the privacy of the young man and his family. In relation to this issue we have appropriately decided to call him "son".

TO Tamil: Can you provide details of your crime and conviction?
Son: Murder. I am expected to serve 25 years in jail. I've served two years.

TO Tamil: Can you explain your childhood?
Son: I think I had a good childhood. I remember that when we first came to Canada, my parents were struggling. My father started working in a factory and my mother became a self-employed seamstress. She made sari blouses for people in our Tamil community. Obviously their income was not enough to feed and clothe four children but our parents never complained. At night we hear them arguing, this used to scare me. Now I realize that they were only taking out their frustrations on one another.

"I tried to but they didn't care to listen. They didn't believe me."

TO Tamil: As a nine-year-old boy, how would you describe your mother and father?
Son: [Silent for a couple of minutes]. Busy. I saw my mother in the mornings and when I came home after school, she would be locked up in her room trying to finish her sewing. Sometimes I would hear the sewing machine all through the night, it puts me to sleep. [Pauses] My father, I never saw him. He was always at work. He had to make enough money for us and for his siblings in Sri Lanka.

TO Tamil: What is your favourite memory of your parents?
Son: [Shakes his head and smiles]. Probably my 11th birthday. For the first time, we went out as a family. I had asked my parents to take us to a restaurant and my father took a day off work to spend the day with us.

TO Tamil: Do you have a least favourite memory with your parents?
Son: [Sarcastically] My all-time least favourite memory would have to be when my parents didn't realize that my younger brother was very sick. My mother finally decided to take him to the doctor and the doctor said that he was suffering from some sort of lung disease. My little brother died when he was 8 years old.

TO Tamil: I'm sorry to hear that. Do you blame them for your brother's death?
Son: I don't blame them, I'm just angry with them. I remember that my parents thought it was only a very bad cough. My mother did give him all the homemade remedies. The only reason she didn't take him to the doctor was because she didn't believe in giving him so many different medications such as anti-biotic and cough syrups. Do you have any other questions?

TO Tamil: At what age did you start getting in trouble with the law?
Son: This is the kind of question I expected. Well, when I was fifteen I was arrested for possession of a weapon. I brought a knife to school to threaten a kid.

TO Tamil: Did you parents find out about that?
Son: Yeah. They went crazy because I was expelled from school. They asked my relatives for help but our relatives only made things worse by gossiping about my family. Since that day, my parents have been ashamed of me. After that, I continuously got in trouble at school for one reason or another.

TO Tamil: Did your parents ever talk to you about your behaviour?
Son: [Laughs]. Yeah, they tried. They told me that I was a disgrace to the family. My parents asked me to stay away from criminal activity at least until my older sister (who was nineteen at the time) gets married. They said that if she did not get a marriage proposal, it would be my fault. They also reminded me that all of our relatives were talking about me and calling me a criminal.

TO Tamil: If they had treated you differently or talked to you compassionately, would you have changed?
Son: I don't know. I'm not blaming my parents for the way I turned out. I know the rest of the world probably blames them but I don't. I think they did the best they could. I just wish that they had explained to me of the difficulty that they were facing at the time. I didn't know that my grandmother was sick in Sri Lanka and my father was sending money for her. I didn't know that the war in Sri Lanka was a burden on my parents. I think as a fifteen year-old kid, I would have understood their worries. Maybe then, I would have turned out differently.

TO Tamil: How did your parents discipline you?
Son: Well, my father hit me a couple of times. My mother tried to defend me. This was the routine for the first couple of times I got in trouble. By the time I turned 18 my father lost his job and I never saw him as much, he was out working at different places everyday. I got a job at a grocery store and tried to help them out. [Sits silently for a couple of minutes]. My father never accepted my money though. He heard from people that I was involved in fraud and theft. I was arrested for getting into fights but never for fraud or theft. My friends were involved in that stuff but not me.

TO Tamil: So why didn't you explain that to your parents?
Son: I tried to but they didn't care to listen. They didn't believe me.

TO Tamil: Since the day you stepped into this jail how many times did your parents visit you?
Son: My mother comes down often. Now that my sister is married, my brother-in-law drives her here to see me. My father only comes for my birthday.

TO Tamil: If you could tell your parents one thing what would it be?
Son: To have faith in their children. Children make mistakes and so do parents. I have forgiven them for all the mistakes they've made and I ask them to forgive me.

பெற்றோர்கள் பிள்ளைகளின் வளர்ச்சியில் இலக்கமைப்பது எப்படி?

குடும்பம் என்ற கருவின் அன்புவழி வந்த உறவுமுறையின் முகிழ்ப்புக்களே பெற்றோர்களும் பிள்ளைகளும் ஆகும். எவ்வாறு ஒரு குடும்பத்தின் வெற்றியில் பெற்றோர்கள் முக்கிய பங்காற்றுகின்றார்களோ அதேயளவு பங்கு பிள்ளைகளுக்கும் உண்டு என்பதை பிள்ளைகள் எக்கணமும் மறக்கக் கூடாது. பெற்றோர்கள் பிள்ளைகளின் வளர்ச்சியில் எப்பவுமே தடைக்காரர்களாக இருக்க மாட்டார்கள். சில பெற்றோர்கள் மறைமுகமாக அவர்களுக்கும் தெரியாமலே சிலவேளைகளில் பிள்ளைகளின் வளர்ச்சியில் தடைக்காரர்களாக இருக்கின்றனர். எது எப்படியாயினும் சிறந்த குடும்பம் ஒன்றில் பெற்றோர்கள் பிள்ளைகளின் வளர்ச்சியில் இலக்கமைத்து வாழ்வார்களாயின் பிள்ளைகளின் ஆளுமைப்பாங்கு வளர்ச்சியடைவதுடன் அவர்களின் மனநிலைகளிலும் பெரும் மாற்றங்களை அவதானிக்க முடியும்.

ஒவ்வொரு குடும்பத்திற்கும் இலக்கு என்பது நிச்சயம் இருக்க வேண்டும். ?இலக்கற்ற வாழ்வு துடுப்பில்லா படகைப் போன்றது? அது போய்ச்சேரும் இடம் எமக்குத் தெரியாது. அதே போல எமது வாழ்வும் (பிள்ளைகளின்) ஆகிவிடக்கூடாது.

இலக்கு என்பது மனிதனுடைய தேவைகளையும் விருப்பங்களையும் மையமாகக் கொண்டுள்ளது. ஒருவனுடைய இலக்கினை அவன் வாழும் சூழல் குடும்பப் பிண்ணணி (சமயம், சாதி, பண்பாடு, விழுமியம், மனப்பாங்கு என்பன) குடும்பத்துக்கு உள்ளான வெளியான தொடர்புகள் போன்ற பல்வேறு காரணிகள் தீர்மானிக்கின்றன. அவ்வகையில் பெற்றோர்கள் பிள்ளைகளின் தேவைகளையும் விருப்பங்களையும் அவர்கள் வாழும் சூழலையும் மையமாக வைத்து இலக்கமைத்து வருவார்களாயின் அது ஓர் சிறந்த வெற்றிதரும் இலக்காக அமையும்.

பெற்றோர்கள் தமது சிறுபராய வாழ்க்கையில் தம்மால் வெற்றிகொள்ள முடியாத பல இலக்குகளை தமது பிள்ளைகள் மூலம் அடைந்து கொள்ள முயற்சிப்பதுடன் அவ்வாறான இலக்கினை பிள்ளைகளிற்கு திணிப்பது பிள்ளைகளின் தனித்துவத்தையும் ஆளுமையையும் பாதிக்கின்றது. அத்துடன் அவர்களால் கொடுக்கப்படும் இலக்குகள் பிள்ளைகளின் ஆளுமைக்கு மீறியதாக அமையலாம்.

உதாரணமாக! கலைத்துறையில் ஆர்வமிக்க மாணவனை வைத்திய துறையில் படிப்பதற்கு திணிப்பதுடன் பிள்ளைகளின் ஆசை, திறன்களை அறியாது அன்புக் கட்டளைகளைப் போடுகின்றனர். அப்பா கூறுகிறார்! என்னால்தான் வைத்தியனாக முடியவில்லை, என் பிள்ளை என்றாலும் வைத்தியனாக வருவான் என ஆசைப்படுகிறேன் என்று தந்ஜ பிள்ளையிடம் கூறியதும் பிள்ளை தந்தையின் அன்புக்கு மட்டுமல்ல ஆதங்கத்திற்கும் கட்டுப்பட்டு தன் இலட்சியத்தை கைவிடும் நிலையை பல குடும்பங்களில் காணக்கூடியதாக இருக்கின்றது. இவ்வாறு பெற்றோர்கள் தமது முந்தைய ஆசைகள், விருப்பங்களை பிள்ளைகள் மீது ஆதிக்கம் செலுத்துவதும் பிள்ளைகளின் வளர்ச்சிக்கு பின்னடைவைத் தோற்றுவித்து விடுகிறது.

அதேபோல் பெற்றோர்களின் தெரிவுகள் பெரும்பாலும் பிள்ளைகளின் விருப்பு வெறுப்புகளைப் பொறுத்து அமைவதில்லை. அவர்கள் அணியும் ஆடைத் தெரிவில் கூட சில குடும்பங்களில் பெற்றோர்களின் தெரிவாகத்தான் இருக்கும். மகளுக்கு சிவப்பு நிறம் பிடிக்காது என்பதை விளங்கிக் கொள்ளாத பெற்றோர் அவளுக்கு சிவப்பு நிற ஆடைகளை வாங்கிக் கொடுக்கும் போது அங்கே அப்பிள்ளைக்கு விருப்புக்கு பதில் வெறுப்பையே உள்ளாந்தமாக ஏற்படுத்தி விடுகிறது. பெற்றோர்கள் பிள்ளைகளால் எடுக்கப்படும் முடிவுகள் எப்பவும் தமது பிள்ளைகளுக்கு சாதகமான பதிலைத் தரும் எனக் கண்டால் அதற்கான தெரிவுகளை தெரிவு செய்யும் சந்தர்ப்பத்தை (உணவு, உடை, கல்வி) அவர்களுக்கு கொடுத்துப் பார்க்க வேண்டும். அத் தெரிவு அவர்களுக்கு பாதகமாக அமையுமாயின் அத் தெரிவில் உள்ள பலாபலன்களைப் பற்றி அவர்களுடன் அன்பாக கதைத்து அதற்குரிய நல்ல தெரிவுகளை பிள்ளைகளையே தெரிய வைப்பதன் மூலம் பிள்ளைகளின் வளர்ச்சிக்கான இலக்கினை நன்றாக அமைக்க முடியும்.

பெற்றோர்களால் முன்வைக்கப்படும் மரவு ரீதியான காரணிகளான சாதிக்கட்டமைப்பு பண்பாட்டு செல்வாக்கு, மூட நம்பிக்கைகள் போன்ற அம்சங்களை பிள்ளைகள் மீது செலுத்துவது பிள்ளைகளின் வளர்ச்சிக்கு சில வேளைகளில் பின்னடைவைத் தோற்றுவித்துவிடுகிறது.

சில பெற்றோர்கள் தாம் பிறந்து வளர்ந்த ஊரில் தாம் எதிர்பார்த்தபடி தமக்கு மதிப்புக் கிடைக்கவில்லை என நினைத்து அதைப் பிள்ளைகள் மூலம் பெற எத்தனிப்பது பிள்ளைகள் பிழையான வழிகளில் சில வேளைகளில் செல்வதற்கு வழிகோலுகிறது.

பெற்றோர்கள் சிலர் தம் பிள்ளைகளை சுயமாக இயங்க அனுமதிப்பதில்லை. எல்லாவற்றுக்குமே கட்டுப்பாடு போடுவார்கள். இறுக்கமான கட்டுப்பாடுகளை வலுவாக அவர்கள் மீது போடுப்படும் போது அவை பிள்ளைகளுக்கு ஆக்ரோஷ உணர்வை உண்டு பண்ணிவிடவதுடன் பெற்றோர்களுக்கு மதிப்பளிக்கத் தவறிவிடுவதுடன், பெற்றோர்களால் வரம்பு போடப்பட்ட சந்தர்ப்பங்களை தமக்கு சாதகமாக்கிக் கொள்வார்கள். ஆகவே பெற்றோர்கள் எப்பவும் பிள்ளைகள் நோக்கி இலக்கமைக்கும் போது அவ்இலக்கு நெகிழும் தன்மை கொண்டதாக இருக்க வேண்டும்.



பிள்ளைகளின் திருமண பந்தத்தில் தகுந்த துணையை தேடுவதில் கூட சில பெற்றோர்கள் பிள்ளைகளின் சுதந்திரத்தை கட்டுப்படுத்துகிறார்கள். குறிப்பிட்ட பிள்ளை ஏற்கனவே தகுந்த துணையை தெரிவு செய்திருப்பினும் கூட பெற்றோரின் அழுத்தம் காரணமாக தான் தெரிவு செய்த துணையை மறந்து தனக்கு நிச்சயிக்கப்பட்டவருடன் வாழ நிர்ப்பந்திக்கப்படுகின்றனர். பிள்ளைகளின் விருப்பமே பிரதானம் அவர்கள் சந்தோசமாக வாழவேண்டும் என நினைக்கும் பெற்றோர்கள் பிள்ளைகளின் இலக்கை சரியான முறையில் தெரிவு செய்திருக்கிறார்கள் என்பதை அறியலாம்.

பிள்ளைகளின் வளர்ச்சியை தட்டிக்கொடுக்கும் பெற்றோர்கள் பிள்ளைகளின் திறமைகளை இனங்கண்டு அதனை தகுந்த முறையில் வழிகாட்டுவதன் மூலம் அவர்களின் ஆளுமைப் பாங்கை வளர்க்க முடியும். சிறு பிள்ளைகளாயின் அவர்கள் செய்யும் நல்ல செயற்பாட்டை அடிக்கடி சொல்வதன் மூலம் அவர்களின் திறன்களை வளர்க்க முடியும். குழந்தை ஒன்று கீழே விழுந்து அழும் சமயத்தில் புழுழன டிழல ∴ புசைட என கூறும் போது அப்பிள்ளை அழுவதை நிறுத்திவிடும்.

அதே போல பிள்ளைகளிடம் காணப்படும் நல்ல தன்மைகளை எடுத்துக் காட்டுவதன் மூலம் பிள்ளைகளின் வளர்ச்சியில் பங்காற்ற முடியும். மாணவன் ஒருவன் பரீட்சையில் குறைந்த புள்ளிகளைப் பெற்றானாயின் அவன் கூடுதலாகப் பெற்ற பாடத்தின் புள்ளியை சுட்டிக்காட்டி அவனை ஊக்கப்படுத்துவதன் மூலம் அவனது வளர்ச்சியில் சிறந்த இலக்கை அமைக்க முடியும்.

பெற்றோர்கள் பிள்ளைகளுடன் முரண்படாது, சண்டை பிடிக்காது பிள்ளைகளின் அன்பு வழிவந்த உறவின் பிணைப்புகள் என்பதற்கு அடையாளமாக பெற்றோர்கள் சிறந்த மாதிரிகளாக திகழ்வார்களாயின் பிள்ளையின் இலக்கை சரியாக அமைக்க முடியும். அம்மா, அப்பா பிள்ளைகள் என்ற உறவுகளுக்கிடையில் நல்லுறவு இருக்கும் பட்சத்தில் பெற்றோர்களுக்குள் இருக்கும் உறவு முறை பொறுத்தும் இவை அமையும். பெற்றோர்கள் தினமும் ஒருவருடன் மற்றவர் முரண்படுவார்களாயின் பெற்றோரைப் பற்றிய நல்மதிப்பு பிள்ளையிடம் இருக்காது மாறாக பிள்ளை ஓர் வன்முறை சார்ந்த பிள்ளையாக வளருவதற்கு வாய்ப்புக்களை ர்.

வளர்ச்சியில் இலக்கமைப்பது எப்படி?

உண்டுபண்ணிவிடும்.

சில பெற்றோர்களின் நல் வழிகாட்டலினால் கனடாவின் சிறுவன் ஒருவன் புழுடக விளையாட்டில் சாதனை படைத்ததும் இந்தியச் சிறுவன் ஒருவன் நீச்சலில் உலக சாதனை படைத்ததும் அனைவருக்கும் தெரிந்த ஒன்றே.

பொதுவாக இலக்கமைத்து வாழும் போது அவ் இலக்கு சரியானதாக அமையவேண்டும். இதனால் தான் இலக்கமைக்கும் போது ளுஆயுசுவு ஆக இலக்கமைக்க வேண்டும் என அறிஞர்கள் கூறுவ

S – SPECIFIC – குறிப்பிடத்தக்கதாக

M – MEASURABLE – அளவிடக்கூடியதாக

A – ACHIVEABLE – இலக்கினை அடையக்கூடியதாக

R – RELEVENT – செய்கை.'. செயல் பொருத்தமானதாக காணப்படல் மிக முக்கியம் என்று கூறப்படுகின்றது.

அத்துடன் பிள்ளைகளின் வளர்ச்சிப் போக்கை தீர்மானிக்கும் போது அவர்களுக்கு அமைக்கப்படும் இலக்கு சிறியதாக இருப்பது நன்றாக அமையும். ஒரு பிள்ளையிடம் இருக்கும் வலுவை வைத்தே இலக்கை அமைப்பது சாதகமான பலனைத் தரும்.

பெற்றோர்கள் பிள்ளைகளின் வளர்ச்சியில் சிறந்த இலக்கை அமைத்து வாழ்வார்களாயின் அவர்கள் வாழ்க்கையின் முன்னேற வழிவகுப்பதுடன் அவ் இலக்கு பிள்ளையின் வெற்றிக்கும் வழி சமைக்கும்.

?இலட்சியம் ஒன்றைக் கொண்டிருங்கள் தினமும் அதையே சிந்தியுங்கள்?

- திருமதி. உதயா.சிவா

Tamil - A historical and linguistic perspective

'Tamil' is placed linguistically and ethnically in the same group as a Malayalee or a Telugu or a Kannadiga. Yet the strong linguistic and cultural identity exhibited by a Tamil has often times not been understood in a proper perspective. This is an attempt to cast some light from a historical and linguistic perspective, such that the Tamil ethos can be understood a little better. The history of the Tamils start well before 2000 Years. There are epigraphical evidences to these assertions. The history has also been documented in the works and poems of Tamil writers, not necessarily in any structured continuity. In the same time era when the North was dominated by the Mauryan and Gupta empires, and other medieval dynasties, the deep souths history was being carved by the Chera, Chola, Pandya and Pallava dynasties. The Pandyas and the Cheras dominating from pre christian era to about the 3rd century CE, the Pallavas from the 5th to the 8th and the Cholas between 9th and 12th century. The grandest of them all was the Chola kingdom, reaching their zenith in the 10th Century, with perhaps the first Naval fleet of any Indian king.

The Tamil kingdoms were a product of their times and was warring in nature. Yet they were great patrons of fine art and culture. Music and Dance flourished even during early Tamil Kings of the Sangam period. 'silapadikAram', written by the prince poet Ilango, in a narrower perspective, can potentially serve as an encyclopedia of then existing system of music built on 'pann' (loosely equivalent to Ragas ??), various dance forms and plethora of musical instruments. The roots of todays 'Carnatic music' and 'bharatha Natyam' can be traced to these beginnings as expounded in this great Tamil epic 'silapadikAram'. The Temple gopurams all over Tamil Nadu and the stone edifices that challenge the shores at Mamallapuram, are standing testimony to the Tamils mastery of fine artistic sculptures. The bronze works that were produced by the Cholas are national treasures now and coveted with intensity by international art community. Yet the biggest contribution of Tamil Culture, to the colorful diverse Indian heritage, is the rich linguistic traditions of the Tamil language.

Tamil is one of the two classical traditions of India, the other being Sanskrit. Tamil is the oldest living language in India. Madurai, the capital of Pandyas, is usually associated with fostering and developing the language, more than any other, due to the traditions of the Tamil Sangams (an academic gathering for the poets and the writers) that was hosted in Madurai. Although there is this tradition of three Tamil Sangams having existed in different time eras, there has been no works that has come to us from the first Tamil Sangam. The only work, if any, to have come to us from the second Tamil Sangam, which is placed just before the Christian era, is the Tamil Grammar 'tolkAppiyam'. There is another school of thought, which dates 'tolkAppiyam' around 5th to 6th century CE. The third Tamil Sangam works, which is placed around 1st to 3rd century CE, is the one that is traditionally referenced as Sangam Literature. This is a rich compilation of poems from multitude of poets, giving us a glimpse of daily life and thoughts, as it was about 2000 years ago.

The crown jewel of Tamil Literature is 'thirukuRaL', also known as the 'kuRaL', which is placed anywhere from 1st to 5th century CE. Authored by the saintly Thiruvalluvar, these are a collection of 1330 couplets, divided into three sections. 'kuRaL' can be viewed as a code of ethics, that is secular in nature. Very few works are eternal, not constrained by the world you live in and the time era that is reflected. 'kuRaL' is one such. 'kuRaL' is an eternal gem with a universal message.

Tamil has five great epics, the most famous and the first being 'silapadikAram', which is placed around 1st to 6th century CE, chronologically after 'kuRaL'. Couple of the epics are not complete, with some works having been lost in time.

It would be accurate to say that the Bhakthi Movement and the devotional spirit of the Indian psyche was inspired by the 63 Nayanmar saints and the 12 Azhvar saints of Tamil land, who lived from 6th to 11th century CE. These are the saints who gave us 'thEvAram', 'thiruvAsagam' and 'diviyaprabandam'.

Tamils have their own rendering of 'ramAyanam' by 'kampan' of 12th century CE and of 'mahAbhAratham'. Tamil 'ramAyanam' is known for its sheer poetic beauty. There have been some europeans who have contributed to the richness of Tamil literature. The most famous among them being a christian missionary who gave us 'thEmbAvani'. Finally the pre-modern era has given us saint Ramalingars 'thiruarutpA', Bharathiyars nationalistic poems and Bharathidasans song with a social conscience.

Even with all these treasures ingrained in it, Tamil richness is barely recognised outside its sphere of usage. With this rich heritage, a Tamil is eager to contribute to the kaleidoscope that is India and share with the world community that is a just a global village.

Tamil speakers make up the majority of the population of Tamil Nadu state and also inhabit parts of Kerala, Karnataka, and Andhra Pradesh states, all situated in the southernmost third of India. Emigrant Tamil may be found in some parts of the Malagasy Republic, the Malay Peninsula, Myanmar (Burma), Indochina, Thailand, eastern Africa, South Africa, the Fiji and Mauritius islands, and the West Indies.

The Tamil area in India is a centre of traditional Hinduism. Tamil schools of personal religious devotion (bhakti) have long been important in Hinduism, being enshrined in a literature dating back to the 6th century AD. Buddhism and Jainism were widespread among the Tamil in the early Christian era, and these religions' literatures predate the early bhakti literature in the Tamil area. Although the present-day Tamil are mostly Hindus, there are Christians, Muslims, and Jains among them. In the recent past, the Tamil area was also the home of the Dravidian movement that calls for the desanskritization and debrahmanization of

Tamil culture, language, and literature.

The Tamil have a long history of achievement; sea travel, city life, and commerce seem to have developed early among them. Tamil trade with the ancient Greeks and Romans is verified by literary, linguistic, and archaeological evidence. The Tamil have the oldest cultivated Dravidian language, and their rich literary tradition extends back to the early Christian era.

The Chera, Chola, Pandya, and Pallava dynasties ruled over the Tamil area before the Vijayanagar empire extended its hegemony in the 14th century, and these earlier dynasties produced many great kingdoms. Under them the Tamil people built great temples, irrigation tanks, dams, and roads, and they played an important role in the transmission of Indian culture to Southeast Asia.

The Chola, for example, were known for their naval power and brought the Malay kingdom of Sri Vijaya under their suzerainty in AD 1025. Though the Tamil area was integrated culturally with the rest of India for a long time, politically it was for most of the time a separate entity until the advent of British rule in India.

Tamil, language spoken by tamilians, inhabitants of Tamil Nadu. Tamil is among the four oldest languages in the world apart from Greek, Latin, and Sanscrit. Founder of the language Sage Agasthiya came down to Earth to spread this beautiful language, on the request of Lord Shiva. He wrote first Tamil grammar book Agathiyam. It was the first grammar book written for any language in the world. Unfortunately, no copy of this book is known to exist now. The version written by Agasthiya's disciple, Tholkaapiyar, nearly 5000 years ago, still exists, and is accepted as the oldest grammar book in any language. This book is called Tholkaapiyam, after its author. Thirukkural a tamil book on philosophy and life in general, was written by Thiruvalluvar, a sage and philosopher, about 2000 years ago. It is one of the greatest and most succinct books ever written, by popular and critical opinion. After Bible, the Thirukkural is the book which has been translated into the most number of languages.

Tamil grammar has remained the same, probably for 3000 yrs, maybe more. (Also, many of the words that were used a long time ago are still used today, making Tamil a living ancient language. Tamil is still spoken the same way it was spoken a long time ago. I don't think any other language can claim that. Not Chinese, not Latin, not Sanskrit, not Greek, not Hebrew.)

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Tamil is a major member of the Dravidian family of languages, which, in terms of their recorded history at least, are indigenous to the Indian subcontinent -though affinities with languages spoken elsewhere have, with some degree of plausibility, been suggested. In modern times, Dravidian speakers are concentrated in the four southernmost states of India - Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Tamil Nadu - though there are significant pockets of Dravidian speech as far north as Bihar (Malto), Nepal (Kurux) and Pakistan (Brahui). Second to Telugu with respect to its number of speakers, Tamil is of particular importance as being the member of the group with the longest continuous written history, the earliest extant literature belonging to the beginning of the Christian era or earlier, and as being in certain respects the most typically Dravidian, in that with respect to historical change both autonomous and through contact situations Tamil can be shown to be more conservative than any genetically related language.

Dialectical Conventions

There exist slight regional differences in the spoken Tamil of the people living in various parts of the Tamil country. In the nineteenth century, in the absence of transport facilities, dailectical differences would have been more pronounced than it is now. Now they are on the decline because of increased transport and educational facilities. Besides mass-media, such as daily newspapers, journals, radio and television are also contributing factors. However, there are some differences between the Tamil spoken at Tirunelveli and Coimbature. These two dialects differ distinctly from the Tamil spoken in Thanjavur and Tiruchirappalli. The Tamil spoken in the city of Madras on the other hand differs from all of them, because of the liberal borrowing of words from Telugu, Urdu and English languages.

Similar differences exist in the phonetics also. The vowel consonant ca (º) is distinctly pronounced in Tirunelveli, whereas in the northern part of Tamil Nadu it is pronounced as sa (…) at the beginning of words. The letter za (Æ), which is unique to the Tamil language is pronounced differently from one district to another. In the southern districts it is pronounced as la (Ç), in Salem as ya (Â) and in the city of Madras it is pronounced in both the ways. The verb izu (–Ø) is pronounced as icu (–Í). In spoken language vaazaippazam (Å¡¨ÆôÀÆõ) is pronounced to the detestation of scholars as vaaLappaLam (Å¡ÇôÀÇõ) and Vaayappayam (Å¡ÂôÀÂõ). Certain classes of people pronounce the verb irukkiratu (–Õì¸¢ÈÐ) as irukku (–Õì¸). Others pronounce it is irukkutu (–Õì¸Ð) and the illiterates as kiitu (¸£Ð). The verb ceytuvittaar (|ºöÐÅ¢ð*¡÷, has done it) is pronounced in spoken language as ceynjiTTaar, cenjiTTaar and cenjipuTTaar (|ºö»¢ð*¡÷, |ºïº¢ð*¡÷, |ºïº¢Òð*¡÷). Likewise the verb eTuttukkoNtan (±ÎòÐì|¸¡ñ*¡ý, has taken it) is pronounced as etuttukkinan, etuttukNan, and etuttukkittan (±ÎòÐì¸¢É¡ý, ±ÎòÐìÉ¡ý, ±ÎòÐì¸¢ð*¡ý).

Some words have altogether a different meaning in the Tamil used in Sri Lanka. The known meaning for the word aRutalaka (¬Ú*Ä¡¸) is comforting. But in Sri Lanka 'calmly' and 'leisurely (amaitiyaaka and kaalataamatamaaka) («¨Á*¢Â¡¸, ¸¡Ä*¡Á*Á¡¸). The Tamils in Sri Lanka use the word kataippOm (¸¨*ô§À¡õ) instead of pecikkoNTirappOm (§À¡º¢ì|¸¡ñÊÕô§À¡õ) which means 'will be talking'. Likewise they use caTanku (º*íì, rituals) for tirumaNam (*¢ÕÁ*õ, marriage); kaNakka (¸*ì¸¡, heavy or weightly) for niRaiya (¿¢¨ÈÂ, full); vaTivaai(ÅÊÅ¡¸, beautiful) for nanRaaka (¿ýÈ¡¸, better or well); and kantOr (¸ó§*¡÷, office) for aluvalakarn («ÖÅÄ¸õ, office).

Foreign Loan Words in Tamil

Words borrowed from English are phonetically changed and used as such in Sri Lanka. For example pan (bun) is written as pan (Àý); kappi (coffee) as koppi (¸¡ôÀ¢), kOrt (court) as kot (§¸¡ð); Sart (shirt) as set (|ºð), taarc (torch) as rOc and taval (towel) as tuvaai. Likewise many Tamil words are phonetically changed and used as such in spoken and written Tarnil of Sri Lanka.

English and Hindi words are used in spoken Tamil of the people who live in the northern districts of Tamil Nadu. Such loan words are not phonetically changed but written in the same way as they are pronounced in the concerned languages. For example such words as bus, cycle, car, office, late, post, bank, and coffee (pas/ÀS , caikkil/¨ºì¸¢û, kaar/¸¡÷, apis/¬À£S, let/§Äð, post/§À¡Sð, pank/À¡íì and kaappi/¸¡ôÀ¢ respectively) are written in Tamil characters in the manner they are pronounced in English. Script writers, novelists and short story writers use these Tamilised forms in their writings. Some of them use such loan words frequently in their writings,.while others use them only when their Tamil equivalents are non-existent. Although in spokon Tamil such English words as leave, stamp, rail, station and telephone are commonly used, in written Tamil their equivalents vitumuRai (Å¢ÎÓ¨È), tapaaltalai(*À¡ø*¨Ä), pukaivaNTi nilaiyam (Ò¨¸ÅñÊ ¿¢¨ÄÂõ) and tolaipEci (|*¡¨Ä§Àº¢) respectively are used. Some Urdu words like calam and capacu found place in the devotional poems of saints Arunakirinˆtar and Kumarakuruparar, who lived in the seventeenth century. As a result of North Indian's contact some words from the Hindi language are used in the present-day spoken Tamil. For the same reason many sweets prepared in hotels of Tamil Nadu bear Hindi names.

From time immemorial a few Sanskrit words had been intermixed with Tamil. Prior to the second century A.D., and during the Cankam period only one per cent of Sanskrit words intermingled with Tamil. This increased to three to five per cent in the devotional songs of Alvars and Naayanmaars who lived in the seventh and eighth centuries respectively. During the period of the epics also the intermixing of Sanskrit words with Tamil continued to increase. It reached its high water mark in the thirteenth century when the maNippravaala style became popular. As a result the number of Sanskrit loan words increased phenomenally in the religious prose works of the Jains and the Vaisnavites. But the commentators of grammatical and literary works wrote in chaste Tamil with the least number of Sanskrit loan words. As a result the maNippravaala style fell into disuse. However in the Puranas, Talapuraanas, Ulaas and Kalambakams the percentage of Sanskrit loan words continued to remain at five to eight per cent. In the subsequent centuries the frequency increased with the advent of certain new types of versifications like yarnakam, ciletai and matakku. They, however, became obsolete in course of time. Most of the devotional songs of Raamalinka Cuvaamikal contain very few Sanskrit loan words. Their percentage is very high in his prose work. Certain new usages peculiar to the Christians found their place in the Bible. A new translation of the Bible in chaste Tamil is now available. Certain Arabic words were frequently used by Muslim writers in their works. Even today stories written on Muslim families contain some words of Arabic origin. Stories about anglicized families or families living in metropolitan cities contain many words from English to reflect the spirit of their spoken Tamil as well as to give realism to the story. Though foreign loan words were used in Tamil in lesser or greater degree for various reasons and at different periods of time, the Tamil language itself retained its individuality. It can be said that among the living languages of India, it is the Tamil language which has the least number of foreign loan words.

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sOURCE:www.tamilar.org

The Mark of Divorce

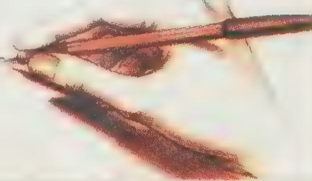
The mark of divorce – as dramatic as it sounds; it is actually less frightening in the 21st century than it was in the past. Divorces can happen to anyone at any time for any number of reasons and it can never be a pleasant ordeal. If we were to take the Tamil community as an example, divorce rates have increased over the past few years. The increase is not as significant as it is in the western society, but nevertheless it is an increase. I find that people are not afraid to choose the path of divorce provided that they have both tried fairly to iron the issues that plague their marriage. The fact that some of us have adopted the western and its philosophy further contributes to this fearlessness. People get married not with the intention of going their separate ways but with the intention of living together forever. However, in some cases the marriage that so happens to be a match made in heaven turns out to be a living hell and ends in a divorce.

The outlook on divorce has changed over the past few years. It used to be the case where one would be afraid to leave an unhappy marriage because it was considered to be shameful and humiliating. People were afraid of the outcome of a divorce and by outcome I mean issues such as: loss of respect within their family and friends, embarrassment and humiliation for the family and for the individual, being considered the second best by future prospects, etc. A person who is about to end their marital relationship spends a lot of time thinking about how they will be perceived by others, but never stop to think about themselves mainly because it sounds selfish. My question is, do they have the right to be selfish? Some may say yes they have the right to be selfish because it is their life and happiness that is on the line and some may simply disagree.

Gone are those days where one views a divorcee as a person with faults and now we just see them as people – people who have been hurt emotionally or physically. These are people who need the support of family and friends to show them that they are truly loved. Divorce is never an easy ordeal to go through and some have regretted leaving their marriage and some do not regret it.

If you have a friend or a relative who is going through a divorce, and you wish to help them you can always be there to morally support them and tell them it's going to be okay. With a little support from family and friends anyone can get through it. For anyone who is debating on whether to be divorced or not, my word of caution is that be one hundred percent sure that DIVORCE is what you want. Communicate with each other and be absolutely certain that you cannot stand each other and that is why you have both decided to go your separate ways.

-A Tamil Divorcee-



From the Heart of a Tamil Divorcee

It's been a year since I experienced happiness. It's been a year since I have gone out with my friends. Come to think of it, I no longer have friends. My friends don't want to be around me anymore for I'm always depressed. "It's been a year sweetheart, it's time for you to move on" they say. 'Moving on' is not something Tamil women can do after a divorce; I learnt that the hard way for I am a Tamil divorcee.

My divorce was finalized one year ago. I am trying to forget and move on like my friends tell me, but I am constantly reminded that I am below everyone else. I am reminded when I go to weddings with my family. I am reminded when extended family members and friends just stare at me as if I am a strange specimen at a museum. I am reminded when I am the gossip of every Tamil function. I am reminded when they are either accusing me or pitying me for being divorced. I am reminded when my parents hesitate to take me to family functions for I am the embarrassment of the family. I cannot blame them for thinking that way since their dreams for their daughter was shattered with one sign of a paper. I can only shudder to think the pain I have caused them. The pain that every parent goes through when their children are suffering right before their eyes. I realize that the failure of a marriage takes only two: my ex-husband and I. My parents had nothing to do with the constant fights that took place in our home. It is not their fault that my ex-husband and I chose separation as the solution to our problems. After 7 years of marriage, we tried to hold onto our bond for as long as we could for the sake of our families. But the string we were holding onto was much too frayed and thin and pretty soon the thread of our marriage broke. Now, my ex-husband is happily re-married with two children (yeah, we got divorced only a year ago, so you can do the calculations and figure the rest out). But I have been cast aside as a 'used leftover' by the Tamil community just because I am a woman, and of course one that is no longer a virgin. Moving on like him, and getting married again can only be a far fetched dream for me. One that will never come true. I wasn't even permitted to stand at the 'manavarai' at my own brother's wedding because I was considered bad luck. I sat in the audience like a guest. I was told to wear a certain type of saree (not one that was too extravagant and glamorous) because a divorced Tamil woman shouldn't look all dressed up like she's looking for another husband; so I was told. I'm a divorcee, not a widow.

For the first time of my 33 years of life, I was ashamed to be Tamil. I regretted being a woman. I was sick of being looked down on, I was sick of the sad faces of my parents every time I walked into the room. I am a successful career woman with a position above many white people, but I don't have respect from my own Tamils all because I am divorced. They assume I am a stubborn woman with a big mouth and that is why my wonderful ex-husband could not stand me. Women are always blamed for the failure of a marriage. The woman should have adjusted to her husband and tolerated everything. This needs to change. Divorced women need love and support from our fellow Tamils. We should be seen as eligible candidates for re-marriage. The tears and pain have to stop. Fuel should not be added to the fire burning inside each and every divorced woman. We should not be mocked or cast aside like yesterday's dirty trash. We should walk with our heads held high. We are women who are suffering the hurt of having failed. This curse put on Tamil divorced women should be broken once and for all. None of this is meant to hurt or offend anyone; it is written straight from the heart of a Tamil divorcee.

Ever Wonder How Déjà Vu Worked?

Déjà vu is the French term meaning 'already seen'. It describes the sensation of familiarity that applies to events, experiences, sensory impressions, dreams, thoughts, statements, desires, and emotions. For example, when an event occurs, sometimes we may think 'I remember this, this has happened before': This feeling of familiarity is called déjà vu. The term déjà vu was first used by Emile Boirac (1851-1917) in his book 'L'Avenir des sciences psychiques (the future of psychic sciences), which he wrote while doing his undergrad at the University of Chicago.

Now that we know the history of déjà vu, let us look at five different areas.

1. Biological/Scientific

The biological/scientific explanation of déjà vu is that it is caused by a chemical imbalance in the brain.

The original idea of déjà vu is divided into two components:

1. 'Being recalled' (from the past life)
2. Knowledge of something before it happens (precognition) or a prediction of the future (prophecy/clairvoyance).

According to scientists, déjà vu is neither a precognition nor prophecy/clairvoyance. Before I go into details of déjà vu, for the purpose of understanding let us look at what is precognition and clairvoyance.

Precognition means before knowing. This is probably the most common experience people claim to have. This is when we see an image or an event in a dream which then later occurs in reality. Not every detail of the dream is accurate in reality, but some unique details are very similar. One of the articles I read talked about a woman who had called in to a live radio talk show to recount the story about a sudden flash she had about a plane crash. Five to six hours later, the plane crash occurred in reality almost exactly the way she had described. If you think you had a precognition, I suggest that you write it down as soon as it happens and wait to see if it happens in reality.
Clairvoyance is somewhat similar to precognition. With clairvoyance, you envision something at the exact moment it is happening. It is difficult to separate clairvoyance and precognition into different categories as they are both very closely related. Clairvoyance is mostly common between relatives, particularly twins. For no reason at all, you may feel sad or feel that something terrible has happened but don't know why. Then later you may discover that a relative or loved one is seriously ill.

So if déjà vu is not precognition or clairvoyance, then what is it? When you experience déjà vu you wouldn't have a clue what is going to happen before it happens, but when it does occur you have a feeling that it has happened before. According to scientists, it's actually a defect of the normal memory pattern.

Humans have five senses, but as far as I know, déjà vu only occurs to the sense of sight. It is unclear whether the other senses are affected. According to the books and articles I've read about the biological/scientific explanation, we see images/events separately through each of our two eyes at two separate instances. One eye records the images we see into the brain and the other eye records it.

For example let's say left eye sends the image first to the brain, and brain waits a nanosecond [one billion nanoseconds equals' one second.] to get the image from the right eye. After the nanosecond brain would automatically records the image in to our storage part of the brain. Déjà vu occurs when one of our eye send the image to the brain and brain waits its usual time line for the next eye to send the image. For some odd reason they image doesn't get to the brain in its usual time line. So the brain records the one eye image of ours. After delaying some nanosecond the image gets to the brain and brain try to re-record that's when our brain would immediately note that it seems familiar, identical to an image [memory] already in our storage are.[even one nanosecond would make déjà vu occurs] this is one theory of how
déjà vu works.

Some scientists link déjà vu disorders such as schizophrenia, which is a disorder that causes withdrawal from reality, illogical thinking, delusions and hallucinations. This disordered is triggered by imbalances of dopamine in the brain and defects of the frontal lobe and is caused by genetic, biological and psychosocial factors, including anxiety. This is what led some researchers to believe that the experience of déjà vu is possibly neurological.

Some people believe déjà vu is related to dreams, although I have already mentioned that dreams are not deja vu but are precognitions. Let us look at the notion that déjà vu is just remembering dreams. When we have a dream, we do not remember its full details in the morning. But the second déjà vu hits us; we think 'I remember this!'

Researchers believe that some dreams may get registered directly into long-term memory, by passing short-term memory altogether. When this new information is imputed in our brain, a person may think that the information is retrieved from long-term storage hence from the distant past. Due to this, déjà vu is thought to be a memory of forgotten dreams.

Let's take one of my own déjà vu experiences that happened a year ago: I was doing my accounting homework [I know exactly what the people who know me are thinking… and year I was doing homework] I was living on campus. As I was doing the homework my roommate walked in, and in that spilt second, I had a flash, and I knew some how my calculator was going to break! Before I could reach for it, he threw the books on the table and there goes my calculator to the floor. From this, what I personally understood is that déjà vu has a close link to precognition and clairvoyance. Even though I knew a second earlier that my calculator was going to brake, I had no clue of how it was going to happen.

There are other researchers who believe that long-term and short-term memories play a big part in déjà vu, they don't believe it has to do with dreams, but more of our brain's chemical imbalance. When we see images, our brain processes the information in a part of the brain called the amygdale. Witch is very closely connected to the hippocampus; responsible for learning and memory. This is where long-term and short-term memories come in.

see next page...

Young Parents

Traditionally in Sri Lanka a young woman is expected to get married in her late teens or early twenties. About 88% of women bear their first child by the age of 23. In Canada while some continue to practice this tradition, most have decided that education and stability is more important prior to marriage. Today the parents of young Tamil girls encourage their children to pursue a career before getting married. Yet, why do we still see young parents in our community? More importantly, why do we see young teenage unwed parents in our Tamil community? Unfortunately, the older generations place blame on the freedom and influence of the Canadian culture. While this may be a shock to some, there are many young Tamil girls (ages 16-20) who have conceived a child before marriage. Some of these young women decide to give birth to the child because it contradicts with their beliefs against the act of abortion whereas others eliminate the "problem". I respect those who make the decision to have the child rather than to abort it. However, the child grows up in an unstable, almost unwelcome home. It is even more disturbing to see a young girl become impregnated only so that her family will accept her to marry the father of the child hence, her boyfriend. The child becomes a bargain technique for the young couple and the role of parenthood is sadly abused. Any child brought into this world should be loved, clothed and fed. I have heard of a situation in which a young girl was disowned by her family when she announced her pregnancy. She was then forced to move out of the house and the father of her child refused to take responsibility. The parents of the male forced him to marry the girl and provided a home for the young parents. While the community applauds the solution, what is the fate of the child? Can a child be brought into a loveless marriage and a conflicting home? Parenthood is a gift from God but in society today people wish to use it as a tool.

We should accept it as a gift and cherish every moment of it. A parent is someone who nurtures a child with food and love, sacrificing his/her happiness for the happiness of her/his children. A parent is someone who can forgive their children even through means of ignoring their own pride. Young parents are unable to turn to their own parents and share precious moments and their child grows up without the love of grandparents. A newborn often brings the family together, filling the generation gap where a mother teaches her daughter to care for the newborn.

Yet, I wish not to encourage youth to get married or have children at a young age. Instead I ask them to first ponder upon the responsibilities of a parent; the dedication and commitment that are necessary in order to be a parent. While the democratic society we live in provides contraceptives, I say one should only look toward abstinence. Parenthood is only a gift when we are prepared to accept it. A parent is someone who brings a child into a stable, loving home.

Inez



What Makes me a Tamil Canadian

Hello my name is Denis Emmerson and I am a Tamil Canadian. What makes me Tamil Canadian is that I keep my language alive within my family, well its only me my mom and dad help keep it alive but my sister is another story. I also like learning about my culture and listening to the Tamil radio and at school every time I get a chance to do a project on Sri Lanka I don't hesitate. I think what is most amazing about me keeping my culture alive is that I live in the most unmulticultural community you would ever find. In fact, my family is the only Tamil family in the entire town, it is pretty scary.

I also love to watch Tamil movies but not all the time because some of them are really boring. I like Tamil movies because they help me learn more Tamil but sometimes the Tamil movies are not censored so I hear a word and I don't know what it means but I use it everywhere and end up being chased by some cousin or aunt/uncle of mine.

I think what I'm trying to say is that I love being Tamil and Canadian and that I wouldn't change that for anything. Some times I think if you give me a few bills I might change- I'm just kidding. I hope you liked reading my essay because I sure did like writing it.

Deja Vu...

[Continuing from page 19]

So what is long-term and short-term memories are?

Long-term memory: things happened long time ago. Like the time you first rode a bicycle. This is when hippocampus kicks into high gear recalling those past memories.

Short-term memory: things that are happening now. Like the sentence you just read (the one about hippocampus kicks into high gear), your amygdale processes the data.

It's really hard to explain what long-term memories are and what short-term memories are. Some short-term memories are seconds old, some are day old. For this reason alone, it's hard to determine when a short-term memory becomes long term. Some long-term are days old or years old. Some of them are so old; you can't remember them, unless reclaimed through the use of hypnosis.

That's it for this issue, next issue we will look in to next area of déjà vu. Spiritual!

If you want to share your experiences or thoughts you can e-mail me at selvanbalasingam@gmail.com

-Selvan Balasingam

Mortgages

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Home Ownership – Don't put off 'til tomorrow what you can do today.

There is an old adage that says, "Never put off 'til tomorrow what you can do today." That statement has never been more true than in the current housing market.

With today's hot real estate market, now is one of the best times ever to buy a home. Affordable house prices, low mortgage interest rates, and high availability of entry-level homes on the market have placed London area homes within the reach of today's average renter. As well, competition in the mortgage market allows homebuyers increased flexibility in negotiating mortgage payment terms.

If you're a renter and have never owned a home, ask yourself the following questions: Do I have an annual household income of about $40,000 or higher? Do I have any savings (even RRSPs) that could be put towards a small down payment on a property? If the answers to these two questions are yes, then you may be able to afford your first home right now!

Market research indicates that renters considerably over estimate the cost of owning and servicing a home. Let's say you negotiate a $100,000 mortgage on a property at 7% interest: your monthly payments would be just $700.42 (based on a 25-year amortization with rates calculated semi-annually).

Are you more worried about the downpayment than the monthly mortgage payments? Saving for a downpayment used to be the biggest barrier between first-time buyers and their new home, but not anymore. Under the RRSP Home Buyer's Plan, if you're a first-time buyer, you and your spouse may each be able to withdraw up to $20,000 tax-free from each of your RRSPs and use it for the downpayment. Provided that you meet the conditions for participating in the Home Buyers' Plan, there are no tax penalties due to a withdrawal from your RRSP, and you can take up to 15 years to pay back into your RRSP in annual installments. The catch is that you and your spouse must each be a first-time homebuyer. You are considered to be a first-time homebuyer if you have not owned a principal residence in the five calendar years prior to the withdrawal.

Also, the First Home Loan Insurance program from Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) allows first-time buyers to purchase a home for as little as 5% down. This program is also available through Genworth Financial Canada, a private mortgage insurer. Whether you purchase new or resale, you could buy a $150,000 home with a downpayment of as little as $7,500. Your mortgage would be insured by CMHC/Genworth.

Making the right choices in home buying is a matter of good planning. Visit the CMHC website at www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca or speak with a mortgage specialist.





Now, every one knows Pecos Bill was the best, The neatest cowboy in all the West.

But Bill was also the tidiest, cleanest, The plain best dressed Hombre to wear a well-pressed vest Of buckskin on his manly chest.

Pecos Bill was the best,
The best in the West.

One day, Bill was riding the range on Tess, The fastest and smartest steed in the West, When he saw a most unwelcome guest.



It was a twister, Picking up litter and dust and trash,

And plumb making a mess
Of the entire West.

Pecos Bill was the best,
The best in the West.

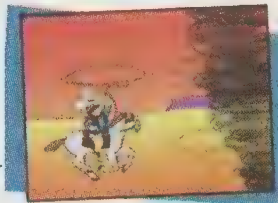
Bill said to Tess, "I must confess,
If there's one thing I detest, it's a mess!"

Tess knew that meant Bill wouldn't rest 'Til he'd put that twister under arrest, Or tamed that blustery, gusty pest That was messin' up the pristine West.



Pecos Bill was the best, The best in the West.

Bill started to ride, astride his steed, Through the dust and the tumbling tumbleweed, Swinging his lasso over his head, On his quest to stop that twister dead.



Tess sprang with the springiest spring That was ever sprung. Bill flung his lasso with the flingiest fling That was ever flung. And Bill whooped, "Whoa!"
To that whirling wind, until It stopped, like a bulldogged steer, stock still.

Pecos Bill was the best,
The best in the West.



And with old Tess holdin' that twister steady, Bill jumped on its back, and he got himself ready, And then old Pecos Bill was sent on The wildest ride that anyone ever went on!

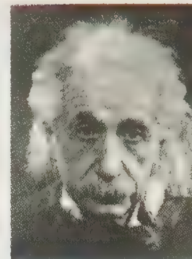
Well, buckaroos, you can guess the rest of it. That twister knew Bill had got the best of it. And so, at Pecos Bill's request, It cleaned up the mess it had made of the West.

Pecos Bill was the best,
The best in the West.

And easy as you please, that tame twister Started dumping every last little bit of litter Into trash cans, not forgetting To separate out all the recyclables.

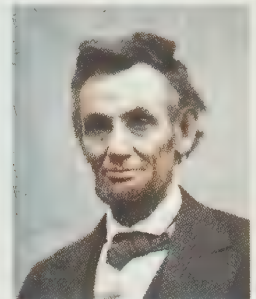
Pecos Bill was the best,
The best in the West.

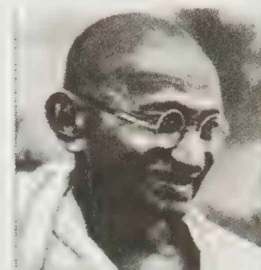
DO YOU KNOW...????







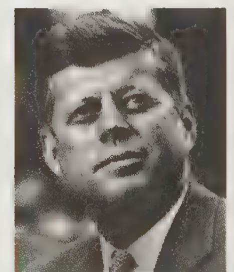












let us test your IQ

Can you Name all the people in here??? aslo their occupation??

email us your answer to info@totamil.com

fLORAL IN DRESS...

Lately fashion has gone blooming with actresses and model flaunting floral prints and dressing up in garments, which had both delicate sprigs and bold bohemian blooms in them; making flowers the fashion world's current darling buds.

In a recent party many actress and models were spotted looking cheerful and bubbly wearing floral prints. For the past two to three months, more women, especially younger ones, were keen to try on floral designs and it seems that it has become a craze now a days with more and more women as well as men demanding garments with floral prints. Flowers are the essence of summer. That's why, without fail, it almost always becomes a trend during the spring-summer season and this year it's the hottest trend. Women want to look more feminine and girlish these days. Floral prints have a cheerful and upbeat mood to them, which is just what fashion and looking fashionable is all about.



Following tips will be very helpful to you while choosing to wear floral prints for the right look.



- Make sure that the floral prints do not overpower your entire body. Accentuate the floral prints on a shirt by pairing them with simple plain slacks, skirt or jeans, and vice versa. You do not want to look like your upholstery, do you?



- Women wearing floral prints should update the bohemian look with new accessories such as strappy heels or a thick embossed belt.

- If you do not want to completely flow with this trend, spruce up a normal outfit with simple flower accessories like a brooch or hairpin or belt. This way, you can still keep ahead with the trend.

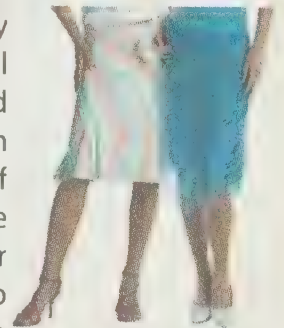
Skirts are Back

This summer skirts have made a comeback with more dazzling and sexy styles. The newest skirts are soft and feminine with layers, ruffles, lace and sheer prints. These beyond-basic styles also feature slits, hanky shaped skirts, flared or pleated, crushed gipsy skirts, wrap arounds, assymetry and do-it-yourself-looking trims (the denims). So what's your style this summer?



Skirts are ideal summer wear as these loose garments allow good air circulation. You can wear long skirts and match it with funky T-shirts, spaghettis, strappy, halter neck tops. Keep the look lean by pairing these skirts with a fitted top that doesn't fall below your hipbone.

Mini skirts are also back in fashion. If you have long legs then go for a wrap around or micro mini which come in trendy and fashionable prints. So get ready to flaunt those sexy legs.



Pencil skirts also look very sexy and appealing. Pencil skirts normally look good on women who are slim and of middle height. If you have a nice waist line then you must tug in your T-shirt or wear a tank top with these skirts. You can also go in for a A-line skirt which is narrower at the waist, gently sloping into an A shape.



A combination of a dark and light shade looks striking so one can sport black n' white, lemon n' blue, pink n' brown, olive n' saffron, red n' white combinations! Check pattern and 'Bobby ' prints look very smart on hanky cut skirts.



FOCUS ON THE LAW



FAMILY LAW: PUTTING CHILDREN FIRST



In family law matters, parents sometimes have the tendency to get caught-up in the bitter fight amongst them and lose sight of the best interests of the children. The court never does lose sight of the interests of the children and it is required not to lose sight of the interests of the children. A healthy understanding of this will not only help parents better resolve the battles they have amongst themselves, but it will also lead to a healthier relationship between the client and the lawyer. In a number of areas within family law, particularly in the child custody and access areas, the family law system places great emphasis on what is best for the children involved in the dispute.

One of the reasons great emphasis is placed on the best interests of the children is because children, by their very nature, are amongst the most vulnerable in our society. They need meaningful and substantive protection. Within our social structures, the family unit, by and large, affords children this much needed substantive protection. In the family law setting, often, it is this very unit, the family unit that is being torn apart. When a married couple (with children) separate or divorce, often half of the children's support structure is undermined. When a child's parents separate or divorce, it is not only that child's financial well-being that is threatened, but naturally, its emotional well-being is as well threatened. Children are also susceptible to the emotional manipulations of one or both parents. There may also be situations where one of the spouses and/or the child is the victim of both physical and emotional abuse.

Often in these instances, a variety of parties may get involved in the dispute. The Office of the Children's Lawyer (OCL) may get involved. The Children's Aid Society may get involved. Child psychologists may get involved in order to assess the emotional well-being of the children and to make recommendations to the Court "on all matters concerning custody and access." [The Nuts and Bolts of Family Law What You Need to Know, Handling Custody and Access Cases with Care, Bryan R. G. Smith and Daniela Ruso, p. 4 (Sept. 29, 2005: O.B.A. and C.L.E.)].

The OCL designates a lawyer to provide "independent, zealous and competent representation and preserve the child's confidence." [Handling Custody and Access Cases with Care, p. 5]. In a 1994 case, Strobridge v. Strobridge, the court defined the role and rights of the Children's Lawyer in family matters as follows:

1. To make full and independent investigation of all of the circumstances relating to the best interests of the children;
2. To have production and discovery according to the rules;
3. To appear and participate at trial, including the right to examine and cross-examine witnesses, call evidence and make submissions to the Court; and
4. To take such appeal proceedings as he or she deems appropriate.

[Handling Custody and Access Cases with Care, p. 5]. It should be noted that the lawyer designated by the OCL is "not entitled to express his or her personal opinion on any issue." [Handling Custody and Access Cases with Care, p. 6]. For more information about the OCL, please check the following URL: http://www.attorneygeneral.jus.gov.on.ca/english/family/ocl/

Another party that could get involved in family law disputes is the Children's Aid Society (CAS). CAS is a non-profit corporation created by the Child and Family Services Act "with specifically prescribed duties related to the protection of children." CAS is a delegate of the state "for the investigation and prosecution of cases of alleged child protection concerns." [BAC 2005, Family Law Reference Chapter 14, p. 4].

For children something very fundamental is undermined when their parents separate or divorce. One-half of the two people they have relied on in their young lives is no longer going to be spending the same amount of time with them. In child abuse cases, the devastation for the child or children is even more so than in separation and divorce cases. It is very important that parents are cognizant of these issues when they make that very difficult decision to separate or apply for a divorce.



Sathishkumar Balasunderam, B.A., J.D., LL.B., Barrister & Solicitor

You can reach Mr. Balasunderam at (905) 452 – 9659.

Disclaimer: Neither Mr. Balasunderam, nor T.O. Tamil, is in any way liable for any consequences arising from any reader attempting to rely on this or any other column of Mr. Balasunderam for the purposes of legal advice. The reader is strongly advised to seek out the services of competent legal counsel in Ontario for such legal advice for their particular problem.

LEARN TO LOVE YOUR BODY

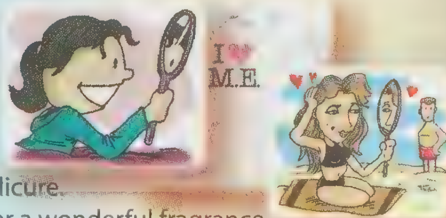
Women are always after getting the "perfect body" that they often see of their favorite film star or the model on the cover page of a magazine. Every woman wants to achieve the most perfect body and in their attempt to look like their favorite film star they end up either getting depressed or unsatisfied with their body, which leads to many complications. Studies suggest that 30-40% of women are somewhat unhappy with their appearance while another 45% may experience anxiety or depression due to dissatisfaction with their appearance.

What women tend to overlook is that it's the job of these glam dolls and models to look ravishing and sexy. But have you considered whether they are really beautiful minus the layers of makeup that they put on. Have you considered whether they are really healthy or not. By getting depressed and punishing your body because you are not satisfied with your appearance you are actually buying the myth of perfection that the fashion magazines sell. Here are ways to promote a healthy self-image within yourself.



Be honest with yourself and practice self-acceptance. Due to genetics and body types, all of us can't be thin but we can all be healthy. Instead of comparing yourself to a model on the cover of a magazine, look in the mirror to find your own standard of beauty. Ask yourself if you are feeding your body nutritious foods and exercising regularly.

Love yourself, love your body. Instead of falling into depression learn to feel good about yourself and to take care of yourself. Pamper your body. Treat yourself to a facial, a manicure, or a pedicure. Indulge in a long, hot bubble bath. Wear a wonderful fragrance.



Don't punish your body by playing mind games with food. Food is not the enemy. Eat healthy but don't obsess. Eat a balanced diet and exercise regularly.

Learn the basics of exercise and nutrition and set realistic goals. Be the star of your own fitness program. Walk, run, bike, or do aerobics. Exercise makes you feel good about your body. Your focus should always be on your health. Indulge your body in fun, feel-good activities often.

Dress up your self-esteem by taking care of your appearance. Wear clothes that are flattering to your figure no matter what size you wear. Stop waiting until you lose a "little more weight" before feeling good about yourself.

Most Common Exercise

In whatever man ventures into he is always surrounded by myths which are sometimes imbibed into him from childhood and sometimes through various other channels. Here are some of the most common exercise myths based on current exercise research.

1. You Will Burn More Fat If You Exercise Longer at a Lower Intensity.
This is the biggest myth that one has. The most important focus in exercise is the amount of fats that you burn while you are doing that activity. The faster you walk, step or run, for example, the more calories you use per minute. However, high-intensity exercise is difficult to sustain if you are a beginner or you have not exercised for a while, so you may not exercise very long at this level. It is safer, and more practical, to start out at a lower intensity and work your way up gradually.

Most Common Exercise

2. If You're Not Going to Work Out Hard and Often, Exercise Is a Waste of Time.
This kind of thinking keeps a lot of people from maintaining or even starting an exercise program. Research continues to show that any exercise is better than none. For example, regular walking or gardening for as little as an hour a week has been shown to reduce the risk of heart disease.



3. Yoga Is a Completely Gentle and Safe Exercise.
Well this belief is very wrong. Yoga is an excellent form of exercise, but some styles are quite rigorous and physically and mentally. As with any form of exercise, qualified, careful instruction is necessary for a safe, effective workout. Some exercises if not continued and abruptly stopped can cause serious health risks.

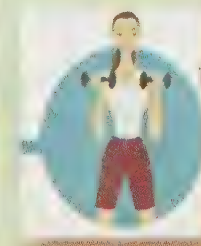
4. Regular Exercise Will Help You Lose Weight Quickly.
This is also a wrong belief. In reality, genetics play an important role in how people respond to exercise. Studies have shown that a group of people who have been following the same set of exercises response differently and weight loss is also different.



5. Exercise Alone Will Keep Your Weight In Check.
This is the general misconception. Weight gain or loss is depends on various factors, including dietary intake and genetics. All individuals will not lose the same amount of weight on the same exercise program. It is possible to be active and overweight. However, although exercise alone cannot guarantee your ideal weight, regular physical activity is one of the most important factors for successful long-term weight management.



6. Home Workouts Are Fine, But Going to a Gym Is the Best Way to Get Fit. Research has shown that some people find it easier to stick to a home-based fitness program. In spite of all the hype on trendy exercise programs and facilities, the "best" program for you is the one you will participate in consistently.





Toronto Tamil Basketball Association

Scarborough
Shanker (Shawn)
Akilan
Randy
Shanthan
Vim (Bomber)
Kamal
Ajeith

EASTERN CONFERENCE					
	GAMES	WINS	LOSSES	PCT	STREAK
Markham	3	3	0	1.000	W - 3
Scarborough	3	2	1	.666	W - 2
North York	3	1	2	.333	L - 1
Pickering	3	0	3	.000	L - 3

North York
Ajeed
Shanker
Kumar
Suren
Max (Mzyuran)
Ainkaran

Pickering
Haran
Gowthaman
Omar
Ravi
Antonio
Pak
Vishnu
Sanaden

WESTERN CONFERENCE					
	GAMES	WINS	LOSSES	PCT	STREAK
Etobicoke	3	2	1	.666	W - 2
Mississauga	3	2	1	.666	W - 1
Brampton	3	1	2	.333	L - 2
Rexdale	3	1	2	.333	L - 1

As of January 25, 2006

Markham
Nishan
Godwin
Vinoth
Bala
Marlon
Andre
Suresh





Saturday January 28th, 2006	
Brampton vs. North York	11:45am
Pickering vs. Etobicoke	1:00pm
Mississauga vs. Markham	2:20pm
Scarborough vs. Rexdale	4:00pm

Mississauga
Mayuran
Ganesh (Dower)
Niruban
Lemo
Sachi
Senthooran

Brampton
Thay
Dhanu
Suby
Ramesh
Vijithan
Kanan
Bravin
Babuji

Saturday February 4th, 2006	
Markham vs. Rexdale	11:45am
Pickering vs. Brampton	1:00pm
Scarborough vs. Mississauga	2:20pm
North York vs. Etobicoke	4:00pm

Etobicoke
Dinesh
Praveen
David
Deepak
Geehan
Congo

Rexdale
Roshan
Sanjeev
Nigsan
Gish
Naresh (Mama)
Steve

Saturday February 11th, 2006	
Scarborough vs. Etobicoke	11:45am
Rexdale vs. North York	1:00pm
Brampton vs. Markham	2:20pm
Mississauga vs. Pickering	4:00pm

* All players are asked to show up half an hour before the start of their games.

Check out the latest scores and standings
www.ttba.ca

Every Flower Says ....



Every flower says that
Life is a battlefield
We must struggle to make it
through, but don't lose hope,
Believe in yourself

Believe in yourself !

Every dawn declares that
When night is gone a new
fresh morning shall be born.
When sorrow is gone happiness
shall be born.

Believe in yourself!

We must believe in ourselves
We will achieve our goal one day if we try
Oh heart,oh heart be strong !
Either mountain or hill face it !

Believe in yourself !

We shall never get broken-hearted
We should never think what kind of life is this ?
Tell me, which person does not have sorrows?
As time passes, our worries will also disappear
The heart that endures pain shall have endless happiness.

Believe in yourself !

Who doesn't have struggle in life ?
Who has a carefree life?
If you have a dream hold it tight
For one day it will bloom alright ?

Nirojini Lawrance

For My Parents!

Wondering at my desk,

I never realized why,

I stress before my test.

I never realized why,

my parents push and yell,

I never realized why,

I thought my life was swell.

I ask my parents why,

They're desperate for good marks,

They say "We're not desperate,

We want you feeling smart.

We know sometimes you're stressed,

And you probably wonder why,

You probably say my life is messed,

But you never need to sigh."

They say "We're always here for you,

Never wonder why,

Cause our love is always true."

I never realized that

My parents love me a lot

I never realized that

They love me as I thought.

I've learned a lot from this,

It's that my parents want my best,

So next time they say study,

I'll do great on my test!

Cathline Alexander

Centennial College TSC presents

Mazhai Thulli

RAIN DROPS...



Feat T.Dots very own Masala Melt Down

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College/University Student ID a MUST (0% TOLERANCE)
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Paramasivan

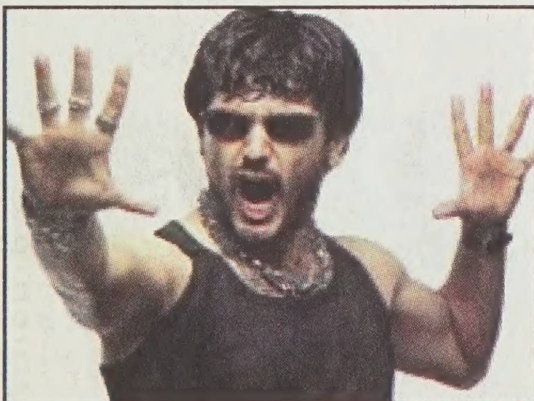
Director - P Vasu
Cast - Ajith Kumar, Laila, Prakashraj, Jairam, Avinash, Navin, Vivek, Bhavani Shanker
Genre – Action



He's a convict on death row, having killed some cops who had brought destruction to his family. With uncontrolled angst against the whole world, and cops in particular, Subramania Siva naturally doesn't t take kindly to senior cop Nandakumar's suggestion to help them ferret out and eliminate some anti-social elements and traitors. Siva is finally persuaded to cooperate, his death faked, and he given a new identity as Paramasivan. The hunt begins and while the convict and the cop flush out the traitors one by one, a CBI officer is hot on his trail, not quite convinced by the reported death of Siva. For Ajith, the film is a suitable comeback vehicle,.his sleek, lean mean look and long mane suiting the role. Vasu has projected him suitably, the actor has improved on his dialogue delivery, and played his role well. It's in the routine song-dance numbers that he looks a bit famished.The director has maintained an interesting, racy pace, the situations are slightly different for Tamil audiences, and the fights are well choreographed. Of course, with some graphics helping out in the stunt scenes, like the one where the hero on a hot chase on his mobike zooms in and out of traffic, firing at his enemies!

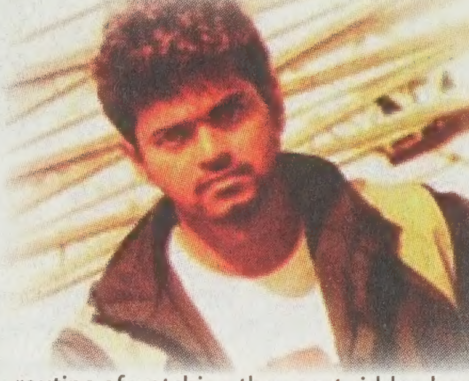
Is Laila's character naive or plain silly? Whatever be that, it's high time she took a break from doing such roles. Prakashraj enacts Nandakumar with panache, while Jairam as the CBI officer has little to do. Vidyasagar's music is disappointing, with nothing much in the choreography of the dance numbers either.

Ajith is back in the reckoning and the actor's fans won't be disappointed with the film.



Aathi

Director - Ramana
Cast - Vijay, Trisha, Prakashraj, Vivek, Nasser, Sai Kumar, Sita, Manivannan
Genre - Action



It's yet another fight-dance-romance formula from Vijay, this one being the remake of the Telugu hit 'Athanok kade'. But unlike his earlier films, which were either enjoyable or at least tolerable, this one tries one's patience as one goes through the tiring, monotonous routine of watching the angst-ridden hero fight against yet another new set of enemies and impossible odds.

The plot as usual is a vendetta-based one - Aathi sets out to destroy RDX and his gang who had massacred his whole family more than a decade ago. Aathi's was a large joint family, happy within the comfort of shared warmth. But Aathi's father, a cop, had dared to challenge the might of RDX, and had paid for it with his life and that of his entire family. Aathi had managed to escape, and with vengeance in his heart had, over the years, planned his move against RDX. And unknown to him there were a couple of other members too who had got out of the death trap, vowing revenge.



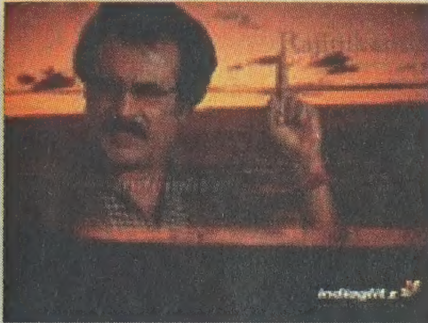
Vijay goes through the dance-fight routine effortlessly, for hasn't he done them from film to film! Bu the actor is plain bad in some of the angst-ridden scenes. Like the one where he, sitting in RDX's den, has a verbal duel with him.

Trisha gets a more substantial role than what a heroine normally gets, and does a fair job of it. The routine script and the lackluster narration (Ramana lets go a chance here to rework on it) is marred further by the insensitive thrusting in of vibrant dance numbers in the midst of serious scenes, which only add to the irritation.

Further, Aathi looks more like a dubbed film, the main drawback being in the casting of Sai Kumar (dubbing artiste-turned-action hero of Telugu-Kannada films) as RDX. The actor's booming, artificially modulated voice strikes a wrong chord, his overplaying not helping matters either. Vivek's comic antics fail to register.

Vijay acts within a certain parameter and formula without taking any risk by way of looks or role. But with his undoubted grip on the masses, and choosing suitable scripts, the actor has managed to sustain his top place at the box office. But some more films like 'Aathi', and he will be forced to re-invent himself!

source: www.chennaionline.com



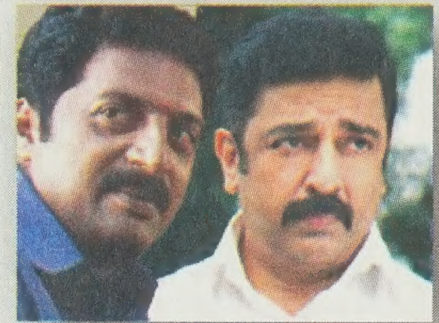
Rumors are agog the industry that Rajinikanth's Sivaji being directed by Shankar and produced by AVM Productions might very well be his last film. This has come a big shock for his fans who are expecting more from 'Superstar'. However sources close to the actor deny these reports as baseless. He is very choosy and does just one film a year. After a stupendous hit in Chandramukhi, it's apt that he acts in such a grandeur project, they say. Buzz is that the actor has evinced keen interest in reviving his Jakkubhai which was shelved as soon as the announcement to commence the movie came, a couple of years ago. Also they say, the actor would call it quit only with a movie that would be directed by his mentor K Balachander, who introduced him to silver screen with Apoorva Ragangal.



Silambarasan is never out of controversies and his directorial venture Vallavan is again in the news . Simbu, who started this project first, went to act in Saravana, leaving the producer in the lurch. The movie, which has three heroines opposite Simbu, is running into trouble owing to a tiff between Simbu and one of the heroines Reema Sen. There have been angry words exchanged between the duo as Simbu has almost made it clear that Reema cannot deliver the expressions that he was looking for. Reema is also not ready to appear with no make up, something which Simbu reportedly wants.

Entertainment

The Entertainer



Actors Kamal Haasan, Prakash Raj among others gathered at the shooting for Vettaiyadu Vilaiyadu at the Madurai airport on Sunday. The news of the stars present at the airport spread like a wildfire in the locality, the fans and media men gathered at the place in large numbers. While the cine-buffs wanted to have a glimpse of their favorite stars, some media men wanted an close up view. It eventually resulted in chaos and confusion at the whole place. Not to mention, there were pushes and pulls. Apparently dejected, director Gowtham Menon had to call off the shooting for the day and pack their bags and return. Kamal Haasan and Prakash Raj, who were present at the venue exchanged pleasantries with their fans. VV is a highly anticipated moive for this year and hopefully it will be a great sucess at the box office





Mumtaj was the talk of the town for a while but then the fire burnt out. Mumtaj burn her fingers with an ill-advised foray into film production. Later, she was also dragged into a controversy in which she really did not have a role. By this time, she also put on lot of weight, and in this age of reedy-thin heroines, it was literally an extra baggage. But now Mumtaj seems to have put all that behind her now. The bitterness of the past is all gone. 'I am looking forward to starting a fresh,' she says. Reflecting her confident state of mind, Mumtaj looks very slimmed down and is oozing glitz and glamour.

Actress Devayani gave birth to a baby girl at a private hospital in Chennai on Monday. The actress, who won the admiration of masses playing homely roles and acting with almost all top actors, married director Raja Kumaran after falling in love with him during the shooting of Vinnukkum Mannukkum. Devayani made a successful entry into small screen playing the lead in Kolangal and her role as Abhi is popular all over Tamil Nadu in every household now. She was admitted to a hospital, a couple of days and gave birth to a baby girl on Monday. A host of actors and actresses have congratulated the couple.



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